Church Life

VOLUME 3. FEBRUARY, 1906. NUMBER 2.

The Annual Meeting.

The seventy-second annual meeting of our church was held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 11th. Dr. de Blois was elected chairman of the meeting and reports were submitted.

The report of the nominating committee was accepted and the ticket was elected as follows:

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 1906.

Deacons for three years.—John P. Ahrens, William R. Raymond, Charles E. Whitmore, O. C. Sabin.

Trustees.—H. F. Googins, John H. Wrenn, T. E. Donnelley, C. H. Marshall, C. R. Stouffer, M. J. Piercey, H. W. Tomlinson, R. B. Twiss, J. G. Marsh.

Church Clerk.—J. Gorton Marsh, F. S. Allen, Assistant.

Treasurer.—R. B. Twiss.

Auditing Committee.—J. D. Stowell, H. J. Hale.

Baptismal Committee.—M. V. Wagner, W. H. Gale, Miss Clara Stowell, Mrs. S. B. Lingle, Mrs. E. L. Russell, Miss Mary Marx.

Church Mission Committee.—L. G. Austermell, Cassius Williamson, Mrs. R. R. Donnelley, C. H. Coyle, Bowman C. Lingle, A. R. Rhenisch, W. H. Craig.

Library Committee.——C. H. Stone, G. M. Atwell, G. M. Adams, Mrs. W. E. Smith, Mrs. G. M. Atwell.

Sunday School Officers — Superintendent, Charles E. Whitmore; Assistant in charge of Intermediate Department, James Barron; Assistant in charge of Primary Department, Mrs. C. C. Lumley; Secretary, H. H. Solt; Treasurer, Chas. H. Stone; Librarian, C. M. Clark; Assistant Librarian, W. R. Raymond.

The Report of the Pastor.

To the First Baptist Church of Chicago:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:—In presenting this, my third annual report as your Pastor, I wish first of all, and with feelings of great joy and deep gratitude, to express to you my appreciation of your faithful and untiring support. You have been generous, magnanimous, and kind. The love that binds us together in Christ Jesus is a bond of true power. During the past year I have realized the fact of your sympathy, your confidence and your loyalty very constantly; and it has been a delight and privilege beyond measure to be your minister. It is the one consuming desire of my life to serve God by serving you, and to show myself worthy of the high mission committed to my care in this community.

Obituary.

Seven of the members of our church have died during the year. Of these two were clergymen, residing at a distance, yet always preserving a deep interest in the affairs of the church they loved. Rev. D. T. Phillips died from the effects of an accident. He resided for some years in Chicago, and had many friends in our city who remember him with affection. At the time of his death he was the United States Consul at Cardiff, Wales.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Shepardson was widely known. His evangelistic labors had been noteworthy, and his rare intellectual and spiritual gifts had made him a mighty man of God. At the memorial services in our church the worth and power of the man were attested by the speakers, Dr. Hulbert and Dr. Hewitt.

Mr. William Peek was also a man of exceptional endowments. His quiet and modest nature forbade his entering largely into the public work of the church, but he was for about fifty years a faithful member, and he lived an eminently beautiful Christian life. He had marked and unusual success in his business career, and was recognized as an authority in the departments of literary, artistic and musical culture to which he gave so enthusiastic a consecration, especially in the later years of his life. He was a man of pure soul, choice spirit and great attainments.

Mr. William B. Darling, Mrs. Isaac Van Hagan, and Mrs. P. R. Fenborn had been prevented during recent years from taking any active part in the work of our church, but they led devoted Christian lives, and their record is on high. Released from the burden of bodily pain and weariness they rejoice today in presence of their glorious Lord.

Mrs. Sied Ding was a sweet and gracious

Christian. Greatly beloved by those who knew her, her loss is deeply felt. She suffered greatly, but exemplified the spirit and courage of a Christlike heroism to the last.

A great grief came to our entire church in the taking away of Mrs. Whitmore, whose gentleness of spirit and consecrated devotion to the cause of Jesus Christ, had won the admiration of us all. Although not a member of our church, her life and heart were engaged in many loving services with us and for us.

Finances.

The report of the Treasurer is encouraging. The fact that we closed the year 1905 with a small surplus on the right side, and with all bills for the year paid, is encouraging. That there has been an increase in the basket collections, in the pew rents, and in the weekly offerings, not only indicates a healthy condition, but reflects great credit upon our Treasurer and Collector for their unremitting attention to the church's interests. The general subscription, taken early in the year, was much less than for two or three years past; but this fact, taken in connection with the others, shows that the subscriptions are tending to come through the regular channels rather than through the emergency or deficiency fund. This is as it should be.

The weekly offering shows an increase of almost exactly $500 over the previous year. In examing the reports of the Treasurer since 1890 I find that the receipts from the weekly offerings were considerably larger in 1905 than during any of the fifteen years preceeding.

Public Work.

As Pastor of the church a good part of my time has been spent in preparation for the two preaching services and prayer meeting of each week. During the last few months there has been added to this the necessary preparation for my two Bible classes. These five regular services demand much time and thought. During the year I have attended about 510 meetings of different kinds, in nearly half of which I have taken part. It is my hope and prayer that these sermons, lectures, addresses, talks, and teachings may not have been altogether without some good effect.

Constant consultations with the officers and committees of the various organizations have brought me into definite relationship with the different branches of our church work. These consultations have been much more numerous the past year than before. This administrative part of my work has been very necessary, though it has constantly threatened to encroach upon the time that should be devoted to study and thought.

Public Worship.

The regular services on Sunday morning and evening have been well attended. The congregations on Sunday mornings have been exceptionally large during the past three months. The evening congregations are somewhat larger than they were one year ago; but they are composed chiefly of young people and strangers. Through the very efficient aid of Mr. George C. Arthur, and others associated with him, a special series of sermons by the Pastor was widely advertised, and the congregations increased greatly for the three months during which the series continued.

The Choir.

No annual report is called for from our choir. Yet nowhere throughout our church life have we a more helpful and inspiring service than that which is rendered by Prof. Havens and our quartette. The remark which was made the other day by a gentleman who has been attending our church for some time that "the First Church has the best organist and the finest choir in the city of Chicago," indicates the esteem in which this important part of our service of worship is held. Not only do we have the privilege of listening to Prof. Havens and his associates on Sundays, but they are always ready to assist on special occasions, such as that of our Watch-night meeting. Their noble work is greatly appreciated.

The Church Work.

A spirit of earnestness and hope pervades our church at the present time. The organizations of the church are in a vigorous state. I do not detect a mark of weakness or failure in the work of any one of them. Some of them are not large in numbers, but all are pervaded by a spirit of loyalty and perfect harmony. We have now four Christian Endeavor societies at the home church. The Advanced Junior division meets on Wednesday afternoons, and is being successfully conducted by Miss Van Fleet. It is intended to meet the needs of children between the ages of eleven and fifteen. The Juniors meet as usual on Sunday afternoon. The Intermediates have their weekly service on Sunday evening at seven o'clock. Though the smallest, numerically of the four divisions, they are fortunate in having several very consecrated young workers in their membership.

The Ladies' Societies.

Both the Benevolent Society and the Mission Circle have enjoyed a year of noble and fruitful activity. To the former is due the greatly improved appearance of our halls, school rooms and church parlors, while the membership of the latter have assumed the entire expense of a young lady student at the Missionary Training School, in addition to their liberal contributions to Home and Foreign Missions. Mrs. Williams' retirement from the Presidency of the Benevolent Society, after a remarkably successful period of service, and the wisdom shown in the selection of Mrs. McCullough as her successor, are events deserving special notice.

The Amoret Henson Guild and the Young Ladies Missionary Society, faithful to their ideals, have quietly pursued their way. Both of these organizations serve a useful purpose in fostering a spirit of comradeship among the young women of our church, in addition to their active service in the cause of Jesus Chirst.

The Girls Fidelity.

It is worse than useless to multiply organizations without due and sufficient cause. There seemed, however, a real need in the case of the young ladies of our church and congregation, below the age of those included in the membership of the Amoret Henson Guild. After several preliminary meetings, in which a few of the girls, with Miss Van Fleet and Miss Eliza-

beth Pickett consulted with me regarding the whole matter, it was deemed wise to proceed to the work of organization. Two regular meetings have already been held, with an attendance of about twenty on each occasion. There are many young girls coming constantly to Chicago from their homes in village or town. Some of these are students of art, music, or stenography. Some work in stores and offices. Some stay with relatives; most are practically alone and have little social life. It is one of the chief objects of our girls to reach many of those who come to our city under these conditions and to assist in providing for them a helpful and healthful social life.

The Boys' Club.

During the autumn months no meetings of the Boys' Club have been held. Mr. Messner, through the removal of his residence to the North Side, and Mr. Rhenisch, on account of the pressure of other duties were unable to continue the activities so successfully conducted by them. Plans are now maturing, however, for the continuance of this important feature of our work, and we are hoping that, in view of Mr. Messner's anticipated return to this part of the city in the course of a few weeks, we will have the benefit of his counsel and co-operation.

The Raymond Interest.

The most important event in connection with our church during the past year was the dedication of our new Raymond Chapel. The patience and faithfulness of the workers on that field has been abundantly rewarded, for they enter upon the occupancy of a building admirably adapted to their needs, and most conveniently situated. The skill and care of the architect, Mr. Webster Tomlinson, are everywhere evident. There is no mortgage or other encumbrance, though a part of the amount advanced by two of the generous members of our church for the completion of the chapel, has yet to be paid. The vestry, we hope, will soon be finished and furnished, giving much additional room for the meetings of the various organizations.

After the lapse of a year and a half the Industrial School again begins its work, under the supervision of Mrs. Jones and the ladies of the Benevolent Society. I hope that in the near future other branches of work, more or less institutional in character, may be inaugurated. We have at Raymond a lot and building owned by our church and paid for. We have a strategic location. We have a consecrated band of teachers, workers and members. The outlook is far more promising than it has ever been before.

The District Organization.

A little more than a year ago a number of district committees were appointed by the Pastor, to assist him in the work of visitation, to follow up strangers and new families, to report and attend to cases of sickness and need, and to make themselves responsible for the general work of the church in their respective localities. The organization of these committees has gradually been perfected, so that we have now 24 altogether, each under the direction of a competent chairman. Practically all the territory in which members of our church reside is covered by the work of these committees. The service rendered has of course been unequal, but as a whole the organization is a distinct and notable success. An immense amount of faithful lookout and visitation work has been performed, and on two occasions during the year the Pastor has received most valuable aid from this entire body of workers.

Pastoral Help.

I wish to express at this time my gratitude for the loyal assistance which Mr. Embree and Miss Van Fleet have rendered me throughout the year. The time and strength of both have been fully occupied in meeting the demands made upon them. The new and greatly increased responsibilities which face us on the Raymond field will now tax to the utmost Mr. Embree's thought and energies. Miss Van Fleet will need to give the major portion of her time, if not all of it, to the Sunday School, and, by her request and with the consent of the president of the Board of Trustees, I some time ago released her from all clerical work, and withheld much more, in order that she might devote herself to matters which seemed more urgently important. The necessity for additional pastoral help, if we would hold our own in this locality, and meet our opportunities triumphantly, has become imperative.

Our Membership .

Many interesting analyses might be made of our membership roll. The fact that we are living in the midst of unsettled and changing conditions is sufficiently, and almost startlingly confirmed, by the statement that 264 of our members, rather more than one-fourth of the entire enrollment, have changed their place of residence within the past twelve months. Altogether, more than 300 changes of one kind or another, were made in our directory. This lack of permanence greatly multiplies and complicates the problem of church progress. Each year witnesses, and it is probable that each coming year will witness, an increasing instability.

Another salient feature of our life is the steady drift Southward. There are 248 of our members, residents of the South Side, whose homes are beyond Fortieth street, and Fortieth street is a little more than a mile south of the church.

The following comparative table is the result of a careful study of our membership roll and shows the location of our people:

Near the church	441
South of Fortieth street, ...	248
On the Raymond field	99
In other parts of the city	50
Chinese members, in Chicago, ...	25
Residence unknown or uncertain,	17
Non-resident members, ...	120
Total, ...	1000

In the group "near the church" I have included the names of all members, both active and passive, who reside in the territory between 22nd street and 40th street, and between Wallace street and the Lake, that is within a radius of a little more than one mile from the church. In a few cases I have designated as south of 40th street those who are working on the Raymond field. The comparatively small number of non-resident members will be a surprise to

some. Considered by themselves, the figures seem large; but I counted on the roll book of another Baptist church of our city, the names of more than XX members who were non-resident or whose residence was unknown.

Our Working Force.

There are many amongst the XXX members living south of 40th street and in other parts of the city, who are amongst our most ardent and efficient helpers. Chiefly, however, we must depend upon the people who live within a mile of our church for constant attendance at our various services, and for aggressive and common activity. This is a large and strong nucleus, and even after deducting one-third of this number, as including the aged, the sick, the indifferent and those who seldom or never come amongst us, we still have an excellent working force remaining.

New Activities.

The two facts to which I have called attention—the lack of permanence in the matter of residence, and the drift Southward—must concern all of us who have pondered the question that our methods and plans must undergo readjustment. We must enter with a more powerful impulse into the life of our community.

The Sunday School and the Community.

The Sunday School will be one of the chief factors in this movement. The statesmanlike report and review of conditions by Superintendent Whitmore shows the school to be in a promising state of efficiency. Every department is under particularly strong leadership. This should be a notable year. But the whole time of three visitors instead of a portion of the time of one could be well employed in behalf of the school. We are in the midst of a great population, and we might have and should have 1,000 scholars. It would require persistent labor to bring about this end, but with two or three people giving all their time to the cause such result would undoubtedly be reached. The children of this vicinity, won for Christ, will be a potent factor in the life and progress of this church, ten and twenty years from now.

The League and the Community.

Under Mr. Marshall's guidance the Men's League has organized for the service of the community much more fully than ever before. He has appointed strong committees, who are consulting and planning large things. The committee of which Mr. W. E. Smith is the chairman, is quietly carrying forward a line of service which I trust will eventuate in the cancellation of the mortgage on the vacant lot south of the church, and in the construction of a building suited to our urgent needs. Mr. Vallette, Mr. Humphrey, and Mr. Arthur, through their several committees, are undertaking work which bears in the same direction, by seeking the welfare of men outside the church. The League meets now every Sunday for Bible study and other business. I have been delighted at the eager and responsive spirit shown in the class-work and I trust that here also many men may be interested whom our church has not hitherto been able to reach.

The report of the church clerk shows a substantial gain in membership during the year. One of the remarkable features is the fact that we have received more members by letter than we have dismissed. The last report of the Chicago Baptist Association revealed the fact that in every one of the churches which are situated near the heart of the city except ours the number dismissed by letter was considerably greater than the number received. There could not be a more emphatic evidence that the people come to our church willingly and leave it reluctantly. Of course we cannot always expect to make such a record, but that it was made last year is a cause for gratitude.

The number received by baptism should be much greater. Here we need to apply our strength and consecrate our energies. We must as a people bearing the name of Christ, be more in prayer for the salvation of souls. Through the Sunday School and the Sunday evening service, and by large endeavor outside of the church and by active personal effort, we must bring men face to face with the necessity of repentance, and of a living faith in Christ. In concluding this annual report, I call attention to this deep need and the paramount importance of meeting its demand.

Faithfully yours,

AUSTIN K. DE BLOIS.

Report of the Assistant Pastor.

To the First Baptist Church of Chicago:
Dear Friends:

The year has been one of varied activities, from rummage sales to rescuing souls. At this time last January I took the census of the district bounded by 31st, Indiana, 33rd and Wabash, calling at about 350 homes. A smaller amount of calling has been done at the pastor's request, and some calling in connection with the Lorimer Class. I have covered the Raymond field two or three times during the year, calling on non-members and members. There are about 120 on the Raymond field who belong to the church.

Benevolent Work.

I have handled a small benevolent fund during the year, amounting to some $10.00, and have ministered to the need of some twenty-five cases, either directly or through the assistance from individuals, or the bureau of charities. Since I have been living near the church, numerous calls for help have been received; some of the possibly worthy cases I have passed on to the pastor; others have received needed advice.

Money Raising.

I have given considerable time and thought to the work of raising the building fund. Counting the money raised by my personal solicitation, from my personal friends outside, as well as our own members, together with pledges made in meetings I've conducted, I have turned in to the building fund nearly $1,000.00, considerably more than my salary.

The Calendar.

I have handled the weekly calendar for all except two or three Sundays. This seems a small matter, but it takes considerable time and thought

each week, and most always means a trip downtown. If we had to pay this printing bill it would be enormous. We cannot be too grateful to Donnelly & Co. for their kindness in giving us the best order of service in the city.

Church Life.

Received during the year	$70.60
Disbursed during the year	67.76
On hand	$ 2.84

LIABILITIES.

Dr. to Klein on loan	$13.00
Donnelly & Co. for cuts	14.00
	$27.00

RESOURCES.

Subscriptions Jan. 06	$33.00

There were added to the list thirty-six new subscribers during the year. We now mail about 250 copies of the magazine each month.

With the beginning of Vol. III. we hope to greatly increase the usefulness of Church Life by making it more than twice as large, with additional material concerning denominational interests. We hope to secure the second class rate so that we can mail a larger number at small expense. To do this we need 300 more subscribers.

It is hoped that every member of the church will subscribe during the year.

We are greatly indebted to the faithful corps of department editors who represent the different organizations of the church in our columns.

Church Life has a very great value in our work as a record of our activities, as a medium of communication, as a channel of inspiration, attested by the almost weekly demand for back numbers and extra copies. The editor welcomes any helpful criticisms.

Deacon Goodman's Seventy Years of History is a labor of love for which we are all very grateful.

Preaching.

At the home church I have conducted twenty-two services, eleven prayer meetings, and as many preaching services, besides the regular preaching at Raymond.

The Work at Raymond.

It is one year and nine months since I began my work with the First church, and for one year and six months of this time the Raymond work was rooming in another church of another denomination. Let First Church leave 31st and go to the First Presbyterian on 21st and Indiana, hold but one preaching service in two weeks for one year and six months and you would have such a situation as conditioned the Raymond work. It was not a time for aggressive work, but of holding together a saving remnant. During the past year, however, three strong organizations were started which have added greatly to our work, The Woman's Society, with Mrs. Freleigh as president, the Girls' Guild, under Miss Lingle, and Miss Lackner, and the Reeder class of young men.

The Woman's Society has been especially helpful in giving a number of socials and in raising in the neighborhood of $150.00, which will be used on the new building.

The Sunday School under the able superintendency of Mr. Craig has kept a good average attendance, considering the difficulties, and has now grown to an average of nearly two hundred.

The C. E. Society comprises a noble company of loyal workers who have stood by the work faithfully. Their meetings are increasing in attendance so that their room is not large enough.

C. E. Treasurer's Report.

Amount received from subscriptions and Missionary collections	$31.16
Paid in advance for Missionary in India	25.00
Balance in treasury	6.16

MABEL COACH, Treas.

January 1, 1905, Balance	$ 8.39
Receipts	5.30
	$13.69
Total Expenses	11.25
Balance Dec. 31, 1905	$ 2.44

HENRY SCHMUCK, Treasurer.

There have been several additions to the church. About one-sixth of the net gain came from Raymond.

The new building gives us the opportunity for a larger work upon which we have already entered, but we can do a great deal more when the first floor is completed and that time will not be very far off if Mr. Rader continues his contributions of time and talents.

There is a spirit of co-operation among our members at Raymond which promises a year of victory for 1906.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH CLERK.

To the First Baptist Church of Chicago,

DEAR BRETHREN: During the year 1905 we have received into our membership by

Baptism	33
Letter	41
Experience	7
Total	81

We have lost from our membership by

Letter	39
Death	7
Erasure	8
Total,	54

This results in a net gain of twenty-seven. During the year the Master has called to Himself Rev. D. T. Phillips, Mrs. Sied Ding, Mrs. Isaac Van Hagan, Mr. William H. Peeke, Mr. William B. Darling, Rev. Daniel Shepardson, Mr. P. R. Fenton.

Respectfully submitted

HARRY F. PERKINS, Clerk.

Treasurer's Report, 1905.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1, 1905			$ 187.66
" from basket collections	$1,353.26		
" from weekly offerings	2,133.67		
" from rent of pews and sittings	5,007.68		
" from contributions for current expenses	2,530.55		11,025.16
" for Raymond Chapel Building Fund			7,695.52
" balance mortgage and interest Highland Pk. lot			98.03
" from annual collection for Sunday School			274.89
BENEVOLENCES.			
" for American Baptist Missionary Union	$ 377.32		
" " American Baptist Home Mission Society	358.78		
" " American Baptist Publication Society	85.18		
" " Baptist City Mission Society	30.00		
" " N. W. Baptist Education Society	90.00		
" " Belden Ave. Baptist church	40.00		
" " Chicago Tract Society	6.38		
" " Florence Crittenden Anchorage	13.68		
" " Central Baptist Orphanage	5.00		
" " Ambidexter Institute	8.92		
" " Marysville College	7.00		
" " Regions Beyond Missionary Union	19.89		
" " Anti-Saloon League of Illinois	164.35		
" " Volunteers of America	99.11		
" " Julia D. Rawling et al	3.27		
" " Ladies' Missionary Box	11.88		1,320.76
			$20,602.02

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid pastor's salary	$5,000.00		
" for pulpit supplies	185.00		
" expenses of choir	2,116.00		
" salary Church Missionary and S. S. Visitor	600.00		
" salary of janitor	600.00		
" for lighting and heating church	767.45		
" repairs	449.59		
" for printing, stationery and stamps	137.58		
" sundry small bills	172.73		10,028.35
" interest			375.00
" insurance premiums			676.58
" special assessments and taxes			57.32
Deposited in Ill. T. & S. Bk. for Drake Fund			95.25
" on sundry contracts, Raymond Chapel			7,659.91
" to Treasurer of Sunday School			247.89
BENEVOLENCES.			
" American Baptist Missionary Union	$ 377.32		
" American Baptist Home Mission Society	358.78		
" American Baptist Publication Society	85.18		
" Baptist City Mission Society	30.00		
" N. W. Baptist Education Society	90.00		
" Belden Avenue Baptist Church	40.00		
" Chicago Tract Society	6.38		
" Florence Crittenden Anchorage	13.68		
" Central Baptist Orphanage	5.00		
" Ambidexter Institute	8.92		
" Marysville College	7.00		
" Regions Beyond Missionary Union	19.89		
" Anti-Saloon League of Illinois	164.35		
" Volunteers of America	99.11		
" Julia S. Rawlings, et al	3.27		
" Treasurer Ladies' Society for missionary box	11.88		1,320.76
" charities and charged to Drake Fund			70.00
Cash on hand Dec. 31, 1905:			
To credit of Current Expense Fund	8.35		43.96
To credit of Raymond Chapel Building Fund	35.61		
			$20,602.02

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

ASSETS.

Cash on hand	$ 43.96	
Pew rentals considered good	200.00	
Pledges considered good	15.00	
Remaining half Highland Park lot	500.00	
Cash in Ill. T. & S. Bank for Drake Fund	568.15	
Fifty feet land adjoining church building—cost	6,100.00	7,427.11

LIABILITIES.

Amount owing Drake Fund	$ 956.35	
First mortgage on vacant lot	3,000.00	
Balance second mortgage on vacant lot	2,425.00	
Due on Raymond Chapel contracts	131.21	
Amount due on loan	500.00	7,012.56
Surplus		414.55

INSURANCE.

On church edifice	$50,000.00	
On furniture and fixtures	10,000.00	
On organ	5,000.00	65,000.00

The following sums, collected by the respective organizations named, do not appear on the treasurer's books. These sums do not include the money raised by such organizations for Raymond Chapel Building Fund:

Ladies' Benevolent Society	$ 995.20	
Women's Mission Circle	809.80	
Young Women's Misionary Society	40.00	
Amoret Henson Guild	157.93	
Sunday School	773.63	
Fisher Mission Band	68.12	
Men's League	208.92	
Amoret Henson Guild Bible Class	54.80	
Sundry charities, through Church Missionary	55.75	
Society of Christian Endeavor	118.14	
Raymond Chapel—Current Expense Fund	889.67	4,171.96

Chicago, December 31, 1905.

RICHARD B. TWISS, Treasurer.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF RAYMOND CHAPEL FROM FEB. 20 TO DEC. 31ST.

Feb. 20, 1905—

Received from Wm. Wigney ..... $ 5.34

Feb. 20, 1905, to Dec. 31, 1905—

Received from Collections and special Subscriptions 884.33

Total Receipts $889.67

Paid W. M. Embree, salary $733.31

" Immanuel Presbyterian Church for rent 216.00

" Postage and Sundries ..... .36

2059.31

STATEMENT OF FELLOWSHIP FUND OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CHICAGO.

1905.	Chicago.
Jan. 1. Balance on hand	$ 72.60
Collections and refunds for year	201.05
Total	$273.65
Disbursed to various persons by order of Deacons during year	212.09
Balance on hand January 1, 1906	$61.56

E. D. NEAL, TREAS.

REPORT OF RAYMOND S. S. TREASURER.

Collections, first quarter	$ 31.43
Collections, 2nd quarter	23.08
Collections, 3rd quarter	22.74
Collections, 4th quarter	32.14
Other sources	8.88
Birthday collections from Oct. 2, 1904 to Dec. 1905	24.83
	$143.10
Disbursements	129.90
	13.20

L. L. RADER, Treas.

Report of Sunday School.

Rev. Austen K. DeBlois, Ph. D.,

Dear Pastor:

The wheel of time has dropped from its roll the year 1905 with all its certainties recorded, and has commenced to reel off the year 1906—and only as each day unfolds its mysteries and its uncertainties, can we know what it has in store for us.

The past year brought its joys and sorrows—it has given and it has taken.

Homes have been richly blessed and brightened in the gift of the new babe to bind more closely the hearts and lives of the proud father and devoted mother.

New homes have been established by that God given love, unequalled by any other, that unites as one, the lives and hearts of two.

Homes have been made desolate, hearts crushed, and affliction's hand heavily laid, by the taking of the light and life that made home dear.

In "the giving" and in "the taking," God is love, and He makes no mistakes. From the heights of joy, also from the depths of affliction, we should draw nearer to God and learn more of Him: then will come to us an inspiration for a more faithful and consecrated service.

In reviewing the work of the year, just closed, we find improvement in certain directions, while in other directions we are not as prosperous as a year ago; but the improvement is along fundamental lines, while the retrograde is due to individual laxity, and can be remedied.

In passing I'll but touch on the reports of other officers, referring you to said reports for details.

Enrollment and Attendance.

From the secretary's report we find an increase of fifty-five (55) in the enrollment and seventeen (17) in the average attendance for the whole school. This increase was in the Intermediate and Bible classes—the Primary Department falling six (6) below last year's average.

All things considered, it is satisfactory as to the Intermediate and Bible classes, but very disappointing as to the Primary—especially as it was here most of the loss a year ago occurred—the average attendance in this department has steadily decreased since 1901, when it was 303.4, to 217.2 in the year 1905. Why is this? Some of the reasons were given in our last annual report and some will be found in this year's, but there is something more and of vital importance.

Should we ask the teachers how many times they visited the members of their class during the last year, we might find in their answer the cause of our losses.

We know the Sunday School visitor has made all the calls possible, with her other duties, and we urge the teachers to try and do their full share; if they do, we will see a decided improvement in attendance during the year before us.

You have no conception of the pleasure and satisfaction it gives the child, also the parents, to have a visit from the teacher; it makes them feel that you have some interest in the home and home-life of the scholar.

Finances.

Economy and patience has necessarily been the rule regarding our financial needs for the past two years, realizing, as we have, the demands on all for the Raymond Chapel.

The time has now arrived when we feel that a plain statement and earnest appeal to you is necessary, and your due.

We are forced to recognize a few facts:

1. The Sunday School is the most important part of our church—present and future. We must look to it for the young, active membership of the church, upon whose shoulders will rest the entire responsibility a few years hence; but the responsibility of the number of such members and their preparation for the important duties they must assume, rests with you as the present active members of the church.

2. We should make the school as interesting and attractive to the scholar as possible, as well as making it efficient in its religious instruction and moral training.

3. There are many things left undone, which should be done, and we fall far short of our whole duty to the church, the scholars and the Master, from the lack of financial support.

4. You have officers and teachers who are giving time, thought and money for the benefit of a cause in which you are, or should be, vitally interested—not only do they labor on Sunday, but every day in the week they are planning, thinking and working for the upbuilding of your Sunday School and through it, your church.

You may not be able to give your services but you will certainly give of your money and not hamper them or retard this work for the Master in a field peculiarly your own.

In 1903 the church subscribed the sum of $500.00. In 1904, $254.00—but the trustees added sufficient to make the amount $500.00. Last year the amount subscribed was $274.00. We expected this to be increased to the sum of $500.00, as was done the year before, but in this we were disappointed—consequently there was a shortage, as compared with the two previous years, of $226.00.

We know it is only necessary to call your attention to these facts, and to our needs for the successful prosecution of the work.

We ask you to give, for Sunday School work this year, the amount we have been having and the amount we were short last year—or a total of about $750.00, and we feel certain that you will cheerfully and promptly respond with the full amount.

We hope every member of the church—man, woman and child—will give liberally. Not wishing to slight any member of the congregation who may, or may not, have children in our school, we cordially invite them to join us in this great privilege.

OUR DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

Cradle Roll.

While the babes are not included in the enrollment of the school until old enough to enter the Junior Primary, we have some fifty-three

(53) who are fast approaching the necessary age when they will be full fledged scholars. We hope to see the names of every one of these little ones, who make home dear and life sweet, entered upon our Cradle Roll soon after their eyes behold the new world of which they are to be a part.

Junior Primary.

What we have to say about this department can be said in a few words.

It is flourishing and always has the largest per cent. in attendance of any department in the school.

We could accommodate more, and would like to see the room filled, but if every department was as well managed as this, the same interest taken, and same order maintained, we should be well satisfied. Many a boy and girl and many a young man and young lady, can learn something of their duty to, and in the Sunday School, from these little tots.

Mrs. Thomas, Miss Googins and others in charge of this department are to be commended for their work and congratulated on their success.

Primary.

After many discouragements, the department being without an official head for some months, Mrs. C. G. Lumley was finally induced to accept the office of Ass't Superintendent in charge.

Those who know her and of her work elsewhere in this line, need not be told of her ability and qualifications for the position. Everything has taken on new life and interest since she assumed the leadership.

Mrs. Hume, as pianist, has added much to the interest and efficiency and we were most fortunate when she consented to be one of our coworkers, and in so important a position which she fills admirably.

We are very glad to have with us again that faithful and earnest worker, Mrs. Solt. We personally know her worth to our school from her connection with it in the past.

While we still need other helpers, when we can secure the right ones, the department has not been better officered for some years.

We feel greatly encouraged and look for large results the coming year.

We have an excellent and competent corps of secretaries, of which Dr. Frank Gale is in charge.

It is a great pleasure and satisfaction to have associated with us, as one of the assistant secretaries, Miss Florence Huskey; ever willing, always prompt and faithful, she will be a great addition; and will devote her attention to the development of the envelope system for weekly offerings.

We hope in the next annual report it can be said that this department has regained its former position in the school.

Intermediate.

With few exceptions everything in this department is progressing finely and it is in a more prosperous condition than a year ago, the attendance is larger and all are more punctual.

The department has won the attendance banner a number of Sundays the past year, which should make the boys and girls of the Primary department *think*.

We have secured a valuable co-worker in the person of Bro. Solt as one of the secretaries; he can be depended on every time, and that is one of the essentials to success in any undertaking.

Bible Classes.

All of these, with one exception, have had a larger average attendance and a deeper spiritual interest than noticed in our last annual report.

We trust those in charge, and each individual member of the class above referred to, will make every possible effort to revive the interest of a vear ago, and the class again assume the place it should occupy.

We would make special mention of the League Bible Class, which meets at 12:15, at the close of church services each Sunday.

Our pastor is the instructor, and the attendance has averaged thirty-seven (37); its membership is steadily increasing and a deep interest pervades the entire class.

This has been a long felt need and we rejoice with you that we can report its thorough and permanent organization, beginning with October 15, 1905, and also that our pastor is its leader. This is as it should be; and with the aid of that energetic worker, Bro. Marshall, President of the Men's League, also the hearty co-operation of each member, we see no reason why its membership should not reach the hundred mark by the close of the year.

Home.

We very much regret that we are to lose the services of Bro. Googins and wife as Superintendent and secretary of this department.

They have worked hard and faithfully and the falling off in membership and interest is no way due to any lack of effort on their part.

It is a great opportunity and should be a privilege for all who cannot actively identify themselves with the school to become members of this department, and enjoy all the advantages it offers for the study of God's word. We ask the co-operation of each member in our efforts to increase its membership and revive interest.

Entertainments and Socials.

The usual special days have been observed with appropriate exercises. We will not refer to them in detail, as an account of each has appeared in "Church Life."

There has been introduced a new plan of holding our social and business meetings. Instead of meeting at the church we meet at a private residence, by invitation.

We have held two such for teachers and officers of the Primary department and expect to have the same for the Intermediate and Bible classes. We hope to have them about once a month and say two for the entire school during the year.

It is a great improvement over that of meeting at the church, as we get a much larger attendance, more sociability, and enjoy the program and refreshments more.

Several friends, not active in Sunday School work, have kindly offered us the use of their homes, and there will be opportunity for others to do the same if they feel so inclined.

Fisher Mission Band.

From the Treasurer's report the receipts have not been as large this year as last. We hope the

teachers and parents will see to it that the children's interest in Missionary work does not lessen, but do all they can to increase it.

There was on hand Jan. 1, 1905	$67.49	
Collection for 1905	68.12	
		$135.61
Donated to the Chinese Mission	$10.00	
Donated to Mr. Fisher	10.00	
		20.00
Balance on hand		$115.61

Most of this money would have been disposed of, but circumstances for past two months prevented.

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED.

Teachers.

One of the most difficult and important of these is, and has been, that of competent and consecrated teachers.

We have a number of such in our school who are doing a beautiful work for the Master—but vacancies are constantly occurring and it is no easy matter to fill them.

We think you will agree with us that *urging* a brother or sister to take a class and, in our extreme need, accepting some not fully prepared or qualified to teach God's word, is entirely wrong to the Master, the church, and the scholar.

To avoid this it is our purpose to organize a Normal Class—to which will be admitted only those who intend to prepare themselves for teaching and who, when prepared, will acept a class and assume all the duties and responsibilities that go with it.

We hope by this means to have a large class from which we can, two years hence, draw teachers as our needs require.

Summer Months.

It must be evident to the few officers and teachers who are here during the months of July and August, that any further attempt to run the school during that time in the usual way, is wholly impracticable if not suicidal—by far the largest number of scholars we lose are lost during this period—just what can be done to remedy this, it is hard to say, but the experiment of teaching the lesson from the platform is well worth trying, it may overcome the difficulty.

Church Attendance.

It does seem as though a large majority of the scholars, should attend church services. We have appealed to the teachers time and again to urge their classes to do this, and to sit with them if necessary.

It seems a great pity to see some three hundred (300) or four hundred (400) boys and girls leave the Sunday School room for the play ground, and in some instances a worse place.

We strongly urge the teachers the coming year to do every thing possible to induce their scholars to attend church services.

Write or, better still, call on the parents and solicit their co-operation; this done, in addition to personal effort, will go a long way toward interesting the child in the church.

Envelope System.

We thoroughly believe in this system, and it was introduced not only for the purpose of increasing our revenue, but for the more important reason, of trying to break up the bad habit and dangerous practice, of some of the scholars, of spending part or all of the money given them for the Sunday School, for candy.

It has not proven a success—not from any fault of the system, but from the fact of not having given it a fair trial.

1st. The envelopes have not been regularly distributed and

2nd. The teachers have not taken sufficient interest, to follow instructions printed on the envelope.

We admit it is more trouble than the old method, but what of that—we can not expect to obtain good results, from the best of plans, without effort.

We sincerely trust the secretaries and teachers will, the coming year, spare no effort to give it a fair and full trial, for we have two very important lessons to teach by its use—Liberal Giving and Honesty.

Music.

While there is no problem as to music, or where to get it, it is a problem to do so without expense.

There is nothing more attractive or interesting than instrumental and vocal music—in fact it is indispensable.

Every Sunday School should, and many, have a first class orchestra and trained chorus choir—we should have both in each department, and without delay.

We have been trying to organize a volunteer orchestra, but thus far have not been successful. If any of you have children who sing, or play on any instrument, you will confer a great favor by sending in the name and address.

Library.

Though the library is not under the supervision of the Sunday School, but a committee elected by the church, and while strictly speaking it would not come under the head of "Problems", we would in passing like to make a suggestion to the committee.

The school does not have, and has not for several years had, the use of the books to the extent they should. We would suggest, that the distribution of books be regular and systematic—and that teachers urge the scholars to avail themselves of the privileges given them; the books are intended to be read and not accumulate dust on the shelves of the library.

The Future.

We think we have every reason to feel encouraged, as we face the duties of another year. Fundamentally the school is in excellent condition: our progress will depend upon individual effort—all have a duty, and we trust that no one will retain a class or accept one, nor accept or retain office, unless he is determined to perform every duty pertaining to the same, thoroughly, cheerfully and promptly; each individual goes to make the whole, and no one can be unfaithful without, in a great measure, destroying the good that would result from the work of the faithful.

We must feel that we can absolutely depend on each other for the fulfillment of any and all obligations we assume.

With your hearty support and untiring co-operation, I hope at the close of this year to see a decided advance toward the ideal.

We deeply regret that we are to lose Bro. Webster Tomlinson as Secretary, for his services, in that most important position, would be invaluable could he give the necessary time to it. His inability to do this, necessitating his resignation, is a great loss to the school and a decided personal loss to your Superintendent.

We lost one of our oldest and most valuable co-workers when Bro. Henry Pope withdrew from the school. He is sadly missed, especially in the Junior Primary Department where he worked faithfully for many, many years. His place there can never be filled by another, and we all are hoping that he will miss us as much as we do him and return.

In Conclusion.

I thank the teachers and officers for their kindness and loyalty to me, and congratulate them on the harmony and good feeling that exists,—may this continue, and may we be drawn closer to each other by the ties of Christian fellowship and to God by prayer and faith.

Let us work together, as we have never worked before, for the salvation of souls and the upbuilding of God's Kingdom on earth—asking Him to richly bless us in all we do for Him and in His name.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. WHITMORE, Supt.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1905.

Enrollment.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Primary Department (including Junior)	323	319	375	369	375
Intermediate Dept. (including Bible Classes	314	263	363	282	593
Totals	637	582	738	651	968
Home Department	125	208	276		
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.					
Primary Department	217.2	223.3	262	279.15	303.1
Intermediate Department	190.5	167.3	189.5	195.85	237.9
	407.7	390.6	451.5	475.	541.
Percentage of enrollment in average attendance	64.	67.1	61.17	72.96	
Graduated—					
From Infant Class to Primary	15	25	43	25	
From Primary to Intermediate	27	36	28	45	
Scholars received into church membership	9	23	17	3	

The above report includes the Men's League Class, held after the morning service and led by our Pastor, Dr. deBlois. Up to the first of the new year eleven meetings have been held with an average attendance of 37.1-11, the largest class in the school (except the Junior Primary, Infant Class). The Amoret Henson Guild Class under Miss Van Fleet, is the next largest in size, and the members of both classes manifest deep interest in the courses of study.

To sum up the years statistics they show an increase of 55 in the enrollment and an increase of 17 in the average attendance for the whole school. This increase was in the Intermediate and Bible classes—the Primary Department falling 6 below last year's average.

The average attendance compared to the enrollment is 64 per cent as against 67.1 per cent last year. This decrease is doubtless due to the great number of our members who are away during the Summer. From the last of June to the latter part of September the average attendance of the whole school was only 280 as against 458 for the last three months of the year.

I suggest this coming year that during the Summer months the entire school meet *together*. The rooms upstairs are admirably adapted for such an arrangement and it is my opinion that one school with all classes full—with interesting general exercises—will do much to stimulate the scholar's lagging interest during the Summer, —will dispel the feeling of discouragement that comes to officers, teachers and scholars with the sight of only a few scattered attendants and many empty chairs and will hold the school *together ready for aggressive work in the Fall.*

The attendance books show some very good records for faithfulness in quite a number of individual cases, both on the part of scholars and teachers. Would that we had more teachers of this type, for I feel that the success or failure of the Sunday School depends so much upon them.

While I have been the General Secretary of the whole school, my time has been almost entirely demanded by the upstairs department. The work downstairs has been in good hands and Dr. Frank W. Gale and his assistants have continued to evidence their deep interest by faithful work.

To them and to the others in all departments who have given generously of their time I wish to gratefully acknowledge indebtedness. The outlook for the coming year is bright— the school has begun to increase again.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBSTER TOMLINSON, SECY.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL VISITOR.

Your Church and Sunday School Visitor begs to submit the following report for the year ending December 31st, 1905:

Calls made S. S. Absentees	651	
	969	1620
Letters written		514
Postals written		330
Invitations mailed		720
Meetings attended		346
Committee meetings attended		50
Teachers' Meetings attended		24
Bible lessons given		90
Garments distributed		460
Moneys expended		$210.75

It is with hesitation that I present a statistical report of the year's work, for, although we are told that figures do not lie, I am persuaded that they can by no means fairly represent the work of the missionary. The year has indeed been a busy one for me, so busy that often necessary things have had to be neglected for the sake of more necessary ones, and many times both sympathies and physical strength have been almost overtaxed. But I thank the Master, whose I am and whom I serve, for the busy days and for strength to meet the service of each day. The much-needed vacation month of August and two days' rest in the spring helped me to do work which I would not otherwise have been equal to, and the thoughtful consideration of those with whom I have worked has been a constant joy to me throughout the year.

My main work has been visitation among the sick, the strangers and the Sunday School families. Of the 1,620 calls made during the year on behalf of the church, 651 have been upon children who have been absent from the Sunday School, but many others have served both church and Sunday School. In the work of looking after Sunday School absentees I have been greatly aided by the efficient work of the Sunday School secretaries and by the activity of the Sunday School committee of the Christian Endeavor, under the able chairmanship of Miss Daisy Marx. We find that over 50 per cent of the loss in the Sunday School membership is due to removals of pupils from the neighborhood of the church. The larger proportion are lost to us, I am convinced through lack of regular teachers, especially during the summer.

In order to follow up the work of invitation connected with the visitation work, it has been necessary for me to attend practically all of the services and social affairs connected with the church and assist in the work of welcome and acquaintance, and in other ways when possible. In this way, I have attended an average of more than one service a day during eleven months of the year. When possible to spare time from other necessary work, I have met with committees of various societies, groups of Sunday School teachers and conferences of workers, inasmuch as the Visitor's general knowledge of the doings in different departments of the work seems to make her presence advisable at such gatherings.

The Guild Bible class, which has been my special charge, has been a continual inspiration to me. The course of study in the Old Testament, which we have followed throughout the year, has been actively carried on by the young ladies, the membership of the class has increased from nineteen at the beginning of the year to thirty-six at the close, and in the meantime eight officers and teachers have been given to the Sunday School from the class, all of whom were in active service in the school at the close of the year. We have also lost twelve young ladies through their removal from our neighborhood and four through continued illness, while only two have been lost to us through their indifference. The regular income of the class treasury has been greatly increased by the use of the envelope system.

It has also been my privilege to give a number of lessons in the Baptist Missionary Training School, and, during a large part of the year, to meet weekly for Bible study with a class of young women students in the Hahnemann Medical College. The preparation for these classes has taken some time, but has been exceedingly helpful to me in many ways, and has, as well, brought many young women into closer touch with our church, securing not only their attendance and interest but their prayers and help. I have also met with the older members of the Junior Christian Endeavor on Wednesday afternoons during the last weeks of the year and shall continue to do so until a leader can be found to continue this work.

Some of the clerical work which has fallen to my lot during the past year has been otherwise arranged for, which will give me more time for visitation and Bible work, for which there is endless opportunity.

Much of the benevolent investigation and distribution of the church must of necessity fall to the Church Visitor because in the work of visitation she discovers needs and obtains information which must be regarded as confidential. This fact has brought me into close touch and most pleasant relations with the Benevolent Society. It has also given me the privilege of expending over $200 in special funds which have been put into my hands by the Sunday School, the deacons and individual members of the church who have become interested in cases of need not provided for in our benevolence funds. All these moneys are included in the annual report of the church treasurer. I have wished many times that those who have contributed these amounts might share with me the joy of being an eye-witness to the relief afforded.

I have appreciated deeply the loving interest and real friendship which have surrounded me during the year that is past, and while recognizing that many opportunities have been but partially met and many promises have been but partially solved, I still feel that the year has brought victory in many ways.

I pray that God who called me will help me to serve with better effect during the coming year and that we may accomplish great things for Him in the most important work which He has given us in this, our beloved church.

Yours in His glad service,

MARGARET VAN FLEET.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The organization of the District Commitees was barely completed at the beginning of the year 1905. Early in the year twenty-five distinct districts in the region of our church have been outlined, an efficient chairman secured from among the ladies for each district, with an assisting committee of ladies in each district where our church membership is largely represented. In this way almost our entire membership is well divided and placed under the friendly watch-care of a group of seventy-five ladies who are ever on the alert to serve the sick and the poor and assist the strangers to a helpful acquaintance in the church.

The Committees have met together once each month in the church parlors, with the exception of the summer months, where the informal reports of calling done has developed much that was helpful to the Pastor and Visitor and impressed the real worth of this department of our work. It is almost impossible to compute the number of calls made by the ladies of the District Committees and it is entirely impossible to estimate their value to the church. It can only be said that the work of the Committees is heard from on every hand and is gratefully appreciated in the hearts of many who have known the need of a friendly welcome in our large congregation.

MARGARET VAN FLEET. SECY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEN'S LEAGUE.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,

Dear Pastor: The current year opened October 7th, at which time the following officers were elected:

President, C. H. Marshall.
Vice President, C. M. Clark.
Second Vice President, W. E. Smith.
Secretary, S. H. Trude.
Treasurer, M. J. Piercy.

The following committees were appointed by the President, to wit:

Committee	Chairman
Membership	A. R. Rhenisch
Bible Class	W. B. Raymond
Visiting	W. H. Vallette
Social	S. H. Trude
Special	W. E. Smith

The Bible Class committee is doing faithful and efficient service along the line of sustaining interest in the Class meetings.

The Membership Committee is doing splendid work in securing attendance at our Bible Class which meets every Sunday morning, after the church service, and is dismissed promptly at one o'clock. The average attendance of this class to date is thirty-eight.

The Visiting Committee, whose duty originally was to call upon sick members, has broadened the scope of its work and has formulated a scheme by which members of Baptist churches and congregations throughout the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Missouri, coming to Chicago to reside, may be brought into touch with the League.

The further object is to get these men who settle in our neighborhood to become interested in our church, and when they settle in other localities, to notify the pastor of the nearest church, that he may do likewise.

On December 21, at a special meeting of the League, the duties of this committee were again enlarged. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee, with Mr. L. C. Humphrey as chairman, whose duty would be to try and secure employment for any member of the League in need of such assistance.

The Social Committee, under the able leadership of Mr. Trude, have provided the League with three fine entertainments. The first one on the evening of November 6th, at which there were sixty-seven men present, was a varied program. Mr. Geo. Tracy gave a very interesting talk on Russia; and with music, recitations, and light refreshments made a delightful evening.

On November 21, about two hundred men and women enjoyed a bountiful dinner, provided by the ladies of the Mission Circle, followed by music, recitations, and an eloquent and inspiring address by Congressman George Foss.

The third Social meeting was held on January 9. Dr. Wm. White Wilson was the speaker of the evening, his subject being "Americanism," and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The Special Committee, of which Mr. W. E. Smith is chairman, was appointed for the purpose of raising the mortgage on the lot adjoining the church, with the ultimate end in view of erecting a building which will provide for all needs of the church and neighborhood along social lines. Mr. Smith reports satisfactory progress, up to date, in this work.

Another special committee has just been appointed, with Mr. C. M. Clark as chairman, whose duty shall be to have the dance halls on Thirty-first street closed, if such a thing be possible. Also another special committee, of which Mr. Geo. C. Arthur is chairman, will meet and greet all strangers at our Sunday evening services.

CHAS. H. MARSHALL,
President.

ANNUAL REPORT OF LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 1ST, 1905.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,

Dear Pastor:

It is with great satisfaction that the Ladies' Benevolent Society send in this report. We have about 80 members. We have held 15 meetings with an average attendance of 75. During the year we have renovated and decorated the church parlors, Sunday School and lecture rooms, halls and vestibules. We have raised a large amount for the Raymond Mission Chapel fund. We gave towels and pillow cases to an Indian school. We contributed to the three boxes sent out by our Mission Circle.

We have done sewing for the Home for Missionaries' Children, for the Illinois Industrial School, and for the School Children's Aid Society. We contributed to the Baptist Orphanage and also to their bazaar. We have furnished sheets and pillow cases for our room at the Training School. We provided our room at the Home for Missionaries' Children with sash curtains. We have raised $1,581.69 and expended $1,434.50. 231 garments, 13 comforts and 3 quilts have been made. 118 new garments, 488

old garments and 6 comforts have been given out. 461 calls have been made. 74 strangers have been greeted at our church services.

An amendment has been made to our constitution making an annual fee of fifty cents constitute membership in the society.

MRS. W. MORAVA, Secretary.

Report of The Women's Mission Circle for Year Ending January First, 1906.

The Women's Mission Circle has closed a year of the usual activity, monthly meetings have been held ten months during the year with good attendance. We feel that our horizon is widened by this interest in the woman of all lands.

A new departure this year has been the raising of a scholarship in the Training School for one of our own young members.

The contributions from Jan. 1, 1905, to Jan. 1, 1906, have been:

For Home Missions.....$381.07
For Foreign Missions 428.73

J. M. C. LINGLE, Secy.

THE AMORET HENSON GUILD.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,
Dear Pastor:

The Amoret Henson Guild, held eight meetings during the year 1905, with an average attendance of 58. Supper was served at each meeting at an average cost of $5.00. At the Jan. meeting the Guild was addressed by Dr. Crosser on Russia, and at the May meeting by Dr. Crosser on Baptist Missions in India. At the Nov. meeting Mrs. Frank Miller gave us a talk on a Summer's Trip in the Heart of the Mountains. Entertainment for the other meetings was furnished by members of the Guild. During the year, the Guild paid $39.00 from its treasury to Raymond, while individuals paid $61.00 more into the Raymond fund toward our $100.00 pledge. The Entertainment given by the Guild in May cleared for us $74.66.

The Guild Bible Class under the leadership of Miss Margaret Van Fleet, has enjoyed a very interesting and instructive course in Old Testment History. The class has had several social meetings, and many strangers were welcomed. Members of the Class have done quite a good deal of calling upon young ladies of the neighborhood. At present there is an enrollment of 36—several of our members have recently left the Class to teach in the Sunday School. During the year, $63.00 has been collected in Sunday morning Class Collections. $19.00 was given to Raymond—completing the pledge of $35.00. $10.00 was sent to Maplewood Sunday School to use for new chairs, and $15.00 was sent to a former member of the Class who is ill and unable to work.

GIRLS FIDELITY.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,
Dear Pastor:

For a long time Dr. de Blois had thought that in connection with our church there was need of a social society for girls between the ages of fifteen and twenty. Accordingly on Nov. 7, 1905,, our pastor, Miss Van Fleet and Miss E. M. Pickett met a few of the girls of this age to discuss the organization of such a society. At this meeting we decided to hold our first supper November the twenty-third. There were sixteen present. A committee selected by Dr. de Blois to draw up a constitution presented one for discussion. The formal adoption of constitution was postponed until the next meeting held December the eleventh. The nominating committee submitted the following report which was unanimously adopted: President, Floretta Toltow; Vice-President, Florence Raymond; Secretary, Hattie Todd; Treasurer, Jessie Burchett; and the following chairmen of committees: Advisory Committee, Dr. de Blois; Programme and Reception, Gertrude Wilkin; Membership, Myrtle Hamlin; and Supper, Elsie Danow.

On January 2, we gave another supper at which Dr. de Blois and Deacon Whitmore were welcome guests. So far our society has been attended with great success. Fourteen have signed the constitution, but we hope to have many more.

HATTIE TODD, SECY.

REPORT OF THE YOUNG LADIES MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. Austen K. de Blois,
Dear Pastor:

The Young Ladies' Missionary Society consists of a membership of twenty-two. Meetings are held every three weeks, at the homes of the different members, with an average attendance of fifteen.

Last year the girls spent their time at the meetings in making bandages and lint for the work of Mrs. Scott in the Chinese Hospital, while one member of the society read aloud the very interesting autobiography of Mrs. Scott. Work was also done for the Baptist Hospital.

Following is the financial report of the Society for the year:

Balance on hand	$26.45	
Received from dues	13.55	
Total receipts		$40.00
Paid to Home Missions	$12.00	
Paid to Foreign Missions	13.00	
Total expenditures		$25.00
Balance on hand		$15.00

Respectfully Submitted,
FLORENCE HERSKEY, SECY.

THE CHURCH AT WORK

LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Mrs. W. Morava, Dep't. Editor

Another "mysterious disappearance" has been added to the long list. This time it is not one of the human family that is missing, but the manuscript sent by the department editor of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, to the editor of Church Life for the January number. We do

not know what accident befell this manuscript, but we do know it was sent in the usual way on the first of January. It seems out of place at this late day to repeat this report in full, but we will give the names of the officers and chairmen of the standing committees honored by election at the annual meeting:

Mrs. J. S. McCollough, President.
Mrs. C. H. Marshall, 1st Vice President.
Mrs. W. E. Smith, 2nd Vice President.
Mrs. W. Morava, Secretary.
Miss Elizabeth Goodman, Treasurer.
Mrs. W. E. Smith, Chairman of Cutting Committee.
Mrs. A. E. Cochrane, Chairman of Distributing Committee.
Mrs. James McElroy, Chairman of Quilt Committee.
Mrs. E. L. Russell, Chairman of Table Committee.
Mrs. L. H. Smith, Chairman of Lookout Committee.
Mrs. Stanley Pickett, Pianist.

With great hopefulness the Ladies' Benevolent Society welcomed the new year, and saw the old year with the record of its joys and disappointments depart. With Mrs. Williams talking and scattering "Dime Albums," and Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Ahrens in charge of the Delicatessen sales there is no doubt that our indebtedness to the Raymond Chapel fund will soon be liquidated, and we will be looking for "new worlds to conquer." To grow, to work and to turn good resolutions into healthy activity is the purpose of this organization.

As usual the reports from the standing committees show zealous work along all lines.

Mrs. Wigney's inability to resume the work at the Industrial School was the cause of keen regret. However the blow was greatly softened when Mrs. Jones cheerfully accepted the position,and was successful in getting a band of faithful co-workers. The school opened on January 13th, with forty pupils in attendance.

On January 19th rain and snow were contesting for control of the weather and formed a very disagreeable combination that interferred greatly with the attendance. In spite of the small number present much sewing was done and the Delicatessen sale under Mrs. Marshall's capable management was very successful.

THE YOUNG LADIES' MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Leila M. Ahrens, Dep't. Editor

Miss Celia McCullough entertained the society Wednesday, January 3. The attendance was not very large on account of the rain. At this meeting it was decided to have meetings every two weeks instead of every three weeks until after the sale.

The Young Ladies' Missionary Society met at the home of the Misses Pickett, Wednesday, Jan. 17th, and Wednesday, Jan. 31st, at the home of Miss Helen Webster. Each girl is to be held responsible for six articles for the sale, either to be made by herself, or to be solicited.

It would be greatly appreciated by the society if some of the ladies of the church would contribute toward this sale anything in the line of fancy bags, handkerchiefs or aprons.

MEN'S LEAGUE.

Frank W. Gale, Dept. Editor.

Since January ninth no social meeting of League has been held. Account of that meeting was printed in last month's Church Life.

The Bible class at a quarter past twelve every Sunday morning is well attended and those who do not attend are losing a rare opportunity of Bible instruction under Dr. de Blois, our pastor.

Every committee is working hard to attain its objects and success for the League and fine results are evident

A Church Welcome Committee has been formed, the object of which is to welcome all who attend our church service and especially to give a hearty welcome and a hearty invitation to come again to all strangers, and is doing finely.

The Committee on Removal of Mortgage on the lot to the south of the church report that they have made fine progress, and several steps toward accomplishment of the object have been taken successfully. The future looks very bright for the completion of this undertaking. The committee is much pleased with the hearty approval and commendation of their effort received from the church at large.

The Membership Committee reports still further increase in membership and that attendance at both socials and Bible class is uniformly good.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ITEMS.

All told, our school contributed last year the sum of $376.76 to "Benevolences." This is less than half the amount ($851.56) contributed the year before. During 1906 we want to do better than this.

There are 12 officers and 27 teachers in the Intermediate and Bible classes. We have 16 classes (or rather the vacant spaces for them) without teachers or scholars. They ought to be full.

We welcome to the privileges of working in the School, the following new officers: Mr. H. H. Solt (address 113 E. 33rd St.) as general secretary; Mr. Bently Pitts, (2926 Shields Ave.) as department secretary, and Mr. William H. Webster, as assistant.

Our new librarian, Mr. Chas. M. Clarke, (43 Douglas Pl.) has taken the place so long filled by Mr. Charles Henson. His assistants are Mr. Wm. R. Raymond and Mr. L. C. Humphrey.

It sounded good to have our "orchestra" just doubled in numbers last Sunday. Now if we might go on increasing in the same ratio we would soon have a most attractive help to our S. S. work. Did your teacher ever make that inquiry of your scholars as to their ability to play on any musical instrument suitable for an orchestra? If not will you do so to today and report to Prof. Leland?

Church Life

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chicago, Illinois

Editor
WESLEY M. EMBREE

Department Editors

Miss May Fralick — C. H. Coyle
Miss B. N. Harvey — Dr. Frank Gale
Mrs. S. B. Lingle — H. F. Perkins
Mrs. W. Morava — A. R. Rhenisch
Miss E. M. Pickett

C. L. Rundell, Advertising Manager

Subscription price, fifty cents a year, postage prepaid. Remittances and changes of address should be sent to Mr. Embree.

Matter for publication should be sent, on the first day of each month, to W. M. Embree, 3145 So. Park Ave.

PERSONAL

Miss Blanche Harney will entertain the members of the Guild bible class at her home, 3212 S. Park Ave. on Thursday evening, Feb. 15th.

Miss May Titterington has passed through two serious operations at the Wesley Hospital during the past month. She is at present gaining strength slowly.

Miss Laura K. Dresser has been spending some time at the Baptist Hospital this month.

Miss Marion Ballard, who has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. O. E. M. Hall, left Feb. 6th for home in Vermont.

We regret to note the illness of Miss Isabel Harvey, who is suffering from an attack of the grippe.

Mrs. Dr. Ketman, 8 Bryant Avenue, has returned from another visit in Iowa.

"Aunt Lizzie" Aiken, for long years a worker in the Second Baptist church, passed away recently. She was known to many in our own church.

Miss Florence Huskey will be a delegate from our church to the great convention of the Student Volunteers held in Louisville this month.

Mr. Richards is ill at his home, 3125 Indiana, but we hope to see him out soon.

The trustees have appointed Mr. Twiss as collector of the church in addition to his other duties.

Mrs. M. S. Lamoreaux will give the third of her series of addresses on Adolescence Thursday, February 15. Also the fourth and last one Monday, February 19, at 8 o'clock p. m., at the Oakland M. E. church, corner Oakwood Blvd. and Langley Ave. All, especially parents, are cordially invited to attend.

TEACHER'S SOCIAL.

A very pleasant social event of the month occured on Tuesday evening February 6th, when Mrs. Gillette opened her beautiful home for the entertainment of the Sunday School teachers, adult bible classes and their friends. During the time of greetings our new Sunday School orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Walter Reibling rendered several very beautiful selections and later a very enjoyable program was rendered, consisting of vocal music by Mrs. Downe, Miss McCullough and Miss Day, readings by Dr. and Mrs. Lumley and instrumental selections by Miss Daisy Marx and Misses Edith and Florence Gale. Superintendent Whitmore made a few very appropriate remarks and Miss Van Fleet spoke for a few minutes upon the organization of the new normal class for the training of Sunday School teachers. Refreshments and a chorus of old time songs closed a very delightful evening.

RAYMOND NOTES.

The following officers of our Sunday School for the current year were elected by the church Wednesday evening, Feb. 7.

Superintendent—W. H. Craig.
Ass't. Supts.—A. Rhenish and Louis Reeder, Jr.
Ass't. Supt. in charge of Primary Department—Mrs. A. E. Thomas.
Secretary—T. H. Hackendahl.
Ass't. Secretary—Mr. Sims.
Librarian—J. H. Schmuck.
Ass't. Librarian—Charles Minnich.
Treasurer—J. L. Rader.

At the same meeting Mrs. C. F. Freligh was added to the Church Missionary Committee.

It is a pleasure to welcome Mrs. Crozier as a regular member of our school. We are glad to note Mrs. Parry is again with us after an absence of two or three weeks.

The Bible class is trying the experiment of using as a class room the small apartment known as the Library or the Pastor's study The room is rather small, however, and the class is uncertain whether it wants the room or not.

Our earnest sympathy is extended to William Tichy, who for several weeks has lain ill in a hospital in Austin. He was operated on for appendicitis and recovered satisfactorily. While still in the hospital, however, he was accidentally burned quite severely in the back. The wound has refused to heal and a few days ago his father was called upon to sacrifice a number of pieces of cuticle from his own arm to aid the recovery, skin-grafting being deemed the only means of cure. We earnestly hope the operation may be a success and that we may soon have him with us again.

Our Chapel has one very pressing need just

now. We have no Bibles for use of the congregation. If some good friend or friends would supply us with about fifty he would receive our warmest thanks.

We are very sorry that continued sickness has kept Mrs. Monroe from our meetings. She had expressed the determination to again engage in our work when we should be in our chapel, and we trust she may very soon be able to carry out her wish.

Miss Minnich has been confined to her bed for several days, but we are glad to report that she is now able to be out again.

A musical and literary entertainment is to be given at Mark White Square Friday evening, Feb. 16, under the direction of the Mark White Improvement Association.

Our C. E. Society continues to have a large attendance. The interest in the prayer meeting and the evening service is still growing and the increase in the Sunday School is permanent. We are now entering upon a larger work and now is the time for every man to do his duty. We need more teachers in the Sunday School, more helpers in the sewing school, more givers, more workers in all our activities. The field is white unto the harvest; will you be one of the reapers.

Thirteen may be an unlucky number, but Class 13 is by no means unlucky. The attendance is perfect and each girl does her best to make the lesson a success. All through our homeless period the class held together wonderfully. The class has a membership of ten girls, bright and willing. The average attendance is nine.

Lillian Schrober has been absent for the past few weeks on account of a death in the family. We all hope to see her with us in the class soon in regular attendance. The names of the girls are as follows: Eva Minnich, Lillian Schrober, Hattie Wienmann, Alma Kapal, Violet Manfroi, Stella Wolff, Esther Caldwell, Ruth Edling, Ada Rader, Margaret Wienmann. Teacher, Henry B. Chase.

The Journal of the Church.

January 2, Tuesday. Meeting of the Girls' Fidelity Society.

January 3, Wednesday. Prayer Meeting. Theme, "Our Fleeting Life and the Eternal Life in Christ."

January 5, Friday. Regular meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Meeting of the District Committees. Regular meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society. Leader, Miss Elizabeth Pickett.

January 7, Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor on "Learners in the School of Life" in the morning, and "How Some People of Chicago Welcomed the New Year," in the evening. Ordinance of Baptism.

January 10, Wednesday. Church prayer and social service.

January 12, Friday. Regular monthly meeting of the Woman's Mission Circle. Regular meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society.

January 14, Sunday. The Pastor preached in the morning on the theme, "Saved to Serve," and in the evening on "Man versus God and the Result." Ordinance of Baptism.

January 17, Wednesday. Annual Business Meeting. The Young Ladies' Missionary Society met at the home of the Misses Pickett.

January 19, Friday. Christian Endeavor Society considered the topic, "What Christ taught about money." Regular meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society.

January 21, Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor. Morning theme: "William Rainey Harper; A Mighty Man of Valor." Evening theme: "Types of American Citizenship, Marshall Field and Benjamin Franklin."

January 24, Wednesday. Church prayer and social service.

January 26, Friday. Meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society.

January 28, Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor. Morning theme: "Christianity and the Culture of Youth." Evening theme: "God, Politics and the Saloon."

January 31, Wednesday. Church Prayer and Covenant meeting. Theme: "The Joys of Christian Fellowship."

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.

ADDITIONS.

By Baptism—

Wm. H. Webster, 3026 Lake Ave.
Miss Laura H. Douglas, 1496 35th St.

By Letter—

Mrs. Mary A. Lawton, 248 E. 57th St.
Mrs. Kendrick B. Miller, 3220 Vernon Ave.
Wm. M. Dodds, 4240 Cottage Grove Ave.
Mrs. Dora C. Cressey, 4626 Langley Ave.
Mrs. Mary A. Williams, 3628 Ellis Park.
Mr. and Mrs. Ervin L. Roy, 4358 Vincennes Ave.

By Experience—

Wm. L. McCollom, 138 E. 30th St.

DIMINUTIONS.

By Letter—

Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Dobson.
Mr. and Mrs. Harry N. Mills.
James C. Graham.
K. M. Bostwick.

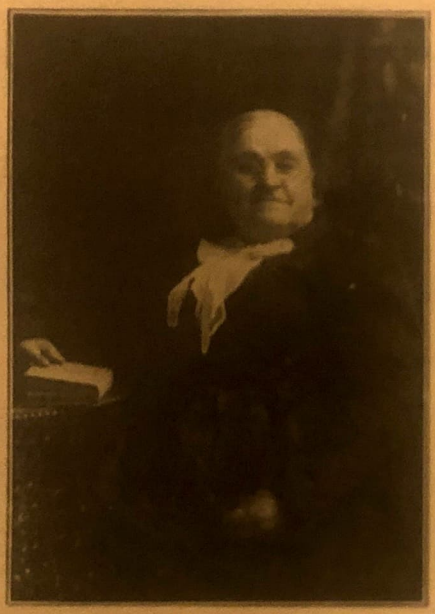
By Dropping—

Mrs. Daniel Reeder.

"AUNT LIZZIE" AIKEN.

Aunt Lizzie Aiken, whose maiden name was Eliza N. Atherton, was born March 24, 1817 at Auburn N. Y. Her parents a short time afterward removed to Cavendish, Vermont, where she remained until her marriage in May, 1837, to Cyrus Aiken.

After her marriage to Mr. Cyrus Aiken in 1837, they removed to the then far West. Their means of travel was by the old fashioned stage, the Erie Canal and by the slow going sailing vessels of the great lakes to Chicago. Here they remained for a short time, before their



"Aunt Lizzie" Aiken.

departure for their future home, Grand DeTour on Rock river, Illinois.

It would be impossible to recount in one issue of the Baptist Record the hardships and privations of her pioneer life. Her first disappointment as a bride was the loss of all her housekeeping articles, which included the silverware and furniture, and which was an inheritance from her Grandmother. These were lost with the sailing vessel which went to the bottom of Lake Erie. She was afterward sorely grieved in the loss of all her children, four in number and all boys. In 1852 her brother Ward and sister Roxanna, came West to comfort her, in her sorrow, she having removed to Brimfield, Illinois. But only eleven days after their arrival sister Roxy sickened and died with the cholera, which was then epidemic in the West. But the dying words of Grandfather again came to her, "Only trust Him," "Only trust Him." Throughout all of the sad and trying experiences of those early days, "little Mrs. Aiken" sought comfort in association with her church and the people of God. She was tolerant and yet a firm believer in the principles of her own denomination. If there was no church where she lived she organized the neighborhood into a weekly prayer meeting and a church was always the result.

Little Mrs. Aiken, that was her non-de-plume, prior to the Civil War, for she weighed only 90 pounds, had yet to experience the severest trial of her life. Although she had lost her beautiful children, her sister, who was to comfort her; and also her home in Brimfield, which was struck by lightning and burned, necessitating their removal to Peoria, she yet trusted her Saviour, she loved the sweet companionship which is the portion of husband and wife. She loved the home fireside. In this mayhap she was not unlike thousands of the brave and true wives and mothers of our country. She said: "I can still be happy with Cyrus" But in 1856 Mr. Aiken was taken severely ill and did not recover his mental faculties, although he had been successful as success is counted in pioneer times. Through the succeeding days of his illness Mrs. Aiken in but a short time saw all their property, dwindled away, her home gone and now all in this world she had was the one who had loved and supported her, now dependent upon her for subsistence. It was indeed a sad and a grievous trial, one that was easily alluded to except it be to give comfort to the distressed hearts whose faith in God seemed wavering.

In 1861, Mrs. Aiken was fired by the spirit of her revolutionary sires and offered her services as nurse with Mrs. Mary Sturgis to Major Niglas, head surgeon of the 6th Illinois Cavalry. "Gov. Yates Legion" as it was known throughout the state.

In November, 1861, the regiment was ordered to Shawnetown and "Aunt Lizzie" and "Mother" accompanied it.

Here "Aunt Lizzie" won her soubriquet. As the two women passed from bed to bed, comforting the suffering men under the direction of Major Niglas, one of the patients asked: "What shall we call these kind ladies?" The surgeon answered: "You may call this lady 'Mother'"—turning to Mrs. Sturgis—"and this one"—indicating Mrs. Aiken—"you may call 'Aunt Lizzie.'" They were never known by any other names during the entire war.

In November, 1861, the regiment was ordered to Shawneetown, Ill., on the Ohio River, and "Aunt Lizzie" and "Mother" accompanied it. The winter was severe, and accommodations for the soldiers inadequate, giving the two nurses plenty of work. The number of patients ranged from twenty to eighty every day, and the heroic women worked day and night, each taking charge of the hospital for six-hour watches. In January, 1862, "Aunt Lizzie" wrote to a friend as follows:

"Quite a little incident took place yesterday; we, as nurses, were sworn into the United States' service. Dr. Niglas tells me I have saved the lives of more than 400 men. I am afraid I hardly deserve the compliment. General Grant, General Sturgis and General Sherman paid us a visit. All join in saying that we excel all other hospitals in being attentive to our sick

and in cleanliness. They suggested my going to Cairo. Dr. Niglas spurned the proposition, and I did too. I cannot tell you how well this work suits this restless heart of mine; my great desire to do something to benefit my fellow creatures is gratified in my present occupation."

Would you know more of the experiences of Aunt Lizzie in the Army? Ask the patriots of 1861 and 1865. They will tell you in broken sentences as they lay upon their cots in the hospitals of Memphis, Ovington or Padrecah, of the tender care that saved their lives or of the pleading prayer that saved their souls. Aunt Lizzie has always been an honored guest and speaker at all of the G. A. R. encampments which she has attended. And the most pathetic has been the affictionate greeting which "her boys" have always shown toward her.

In 1865 she came to Chicago to the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughan, a very dear friend of hers whom she had known in Peoria. After a season of rest she connected herself with the work of the Erring Womans Refuge, in this city and in Sept. 1867 became missionary of the Second Baptist church which position she held at the time of her death.

What she has been to the countless numbers who have been influenced for righteousness through her gentle, sweet, and tactful ministry, heaven alone can record. The encouragement given to Pastors, teachers and workers can never be told. To the new convert her faithful life combining the elements of piety and cheeriness was an inspiration.

She went from us Jan. 17th., almost 89 retaining her faculties to the end and the large Auditorium of the Second Baptist church, was filled by those who loved her.

May the Lord be praised for the memory of her life.

Chicago Baptist Young People.

F. W. Van Keuren, Editor.
356 Jackson Blvd. Tel Polk 1011.

Chicago Association.—President, Geo. H. Norton; Vice-President, M. V. Morton; Secretary, R. G. Stonach; Treasurer, B. F. KeKlly.

District Presidents.—West Side, L. B. Dorr; North Side, W. J. Vollmer; South Side, Harry Hillman; Englewood, Earnest C. Robinson.

B. Y. P. U. DAY.

Sunday February 11th.

Morning and evening the pastors have been requested to make an occasion of special sermons on some two of the many phases of young people's work. See that you are present.

Every B. Y. P. U. in the Chicago Association will be included in a general interchange of leaders, and a census of the total attendance will be taken for report at the Monday night meeting. *Can you in your Union not exceed all previous records and help to make a proper showing?*

CITY ASSOCIATION DAY.

Monday, February 12th., at Auditorium of Central Y. M. C. A., 153 La Salle Street, will occure a Joint Rally of all the Districts in the Chicago Association.

Music—Song service, Mr Robert Fullerton, Tenor.

Addresses.—Rev. U. S. Davis, D. D., of Bloomington, Illionis. Rev. John Balcom Shaw, D. D., pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church Chicago.

NORTH DIVISION B. Y. P. U.

Great interest is being shown by our North Division unions in our series of rallies. Each rally has been more successful than the last. The attendance at the Maplewood church was especially encouraging. Many people could not obtain seats. The Galike church held the banner for two months, surrendering it to Maplewood at the last rally, with the determination to recover it in February.

We have had very delightful sermons from the pastors, who filled the pulpit each time, and we have come away resolved to serve our Master better than we have done.

Notices of the February rally will be sent to each union, and let us go to Lake View church determined to get a blessing and leave a blessing to their society.

WEST SIDE DISTRICT.

The Executive Board met at the Fourth Baptist church. Tuesday evening, Jan. 30th. Supper was served at 6:30 after which the meeting was called to order by Pres. Dorr. Some very important business was transacted the particulars of which will be given next month.

The Worker's Committee held one of the best of the year's services at the Centennial church. Monday evening Jan. 8th. The meeting was conducted by Mr. Newman of Tabernacle. Mr. Newman is a well known artist and gave a most interesting and inspiring chalk-talk on "How Finding Christ Changes a Life."

Instead of the regular service at the Second Baptist church Sunday, the 21st, the Worker's Committee held a memorial testimony service for Aunt Lizzie, led by Mr. Norton.

The Conference.

On Saturday, the 10th of Feb., will occur the mid-winter conference of the West Side District at the Western Ave. Baptist church. The afternoon will be devoted to conferences on Devotional and Educational work conducted by Miss de Clercq and Dr. Kirtley. Dr. Kirtley is the author of the Sacred Literature courses and will conduct a model class.

As last year, supper will be served at 6:30 the after dinner speaking being in charge of Mr. Meacham.

In the evening Prof. Moulton of the University will give his celebrated dramatic recital

of "Job." You cannot afford to miss this treat. There is no admission charge and every one is invited *most cordiallly.*

Feb. 11th there will be a complete interchange of leaders through all the B. Y. P. U's of the District.

Give your leader a hearty welcome!

Feb. 25th Work Committee Service at the Garfield Park church at 6:30 p. m.

Feb. 27th Executive Board Meeting, Millard Ave. church. Supper 6:30.

SOUTH SIDE DISTRICT.

The Work Committee meetings during December were held at Windsor Park, Blue Island, and Parkside.

Each of these meetings were especially helpful and inspiring.

We are glad to report the reorganizing of a B. Y. P. U. Society at Windsor Park which had been disbanded for several months.

They need *your* prayers. Pray for them.

Blue Island, another society added to the district, is working hard. Enthusiasm is theirs. *"Take it up."*

The meeting of the Work Committee will be held monthly at the following societies:

February—Bethany Church.
March—West Pullman.
April—Windsor Park.
May—Harvey.
June—South Chicago.
Keep these in mind.

The Workers' Conference was held at the Memorial Church Thursday, Jan. 25th. The supper was more than good. As for the program part, it was composed of the cream of Chicago and was as follows:

Greeting by Dr. Tullar.

"The National Problem," by Dr. Webb, our Field Secretary.

"Work for Officers," Dr. Boynton.

"Work for Committees," Louis Crittenden.

"General Work," Geo. W. Norton.

Service by Dr. DuBlois of the First Baptist Church.

Don't forget the Rally at South Chicago Church February 8th.

ENGLEWOOD

Englewood District B. Y. P. U. Conference. February 2nd at Covenant.

This was more largely attended than any rally in several years. Church filled to its greatest capacity.

Have begun plans for April social to be held with Washington Park society at 55th and State streets. Mr. Clyde Newman, the chalk talker will be there.

Washington Park Society held a Get Acquainted social in their hall on Friday eve. Jan. 26, which was well attended and all had a good time.

Englewood Baptist Society held a social Thursday, Jan. 25th, to which the presidents of the various societies of the district were invited. A fine time is reported.

The District Executive Committee met at Morgan Park Sunday, January 28, at 5 p. m., after which they visited the Morgan Park devotional meeting and the evening service at which the choir under the leadership of E. Clissold gave a splendid rendition of Gaul's "Holy City."

Sunday, Feb. 11th, an interchange of leaders was effected throughout the entire district as, in fact, was true in all Chicago Association. This interchange we believe is very helpful in many ways—it certainly is enjoyable—let's do it more.

Englewood - on - the - Hill has curtailed itself; it is now known as the Ogden Park Church.

We are all glad of it, for it nearly takes all your breath to say the old name—let's forget it.

OUR "AUNT LIZZIE."

Wednesday evening, Jan. the 17th., 1906, one of the truest, most unselfish most Christ-like Christians that the country has ever known went from us. Aunt Lizzie, whose prayers have been a strength, whose messages an insperation to all our young people, Aunt Lizzie, whose life has meant so much to us all, was called away.

We will miss her prayers, her messages, her wise advice, but the Heavenly Father who made Aunt Lizzie what she was, will not forget those petitions just because she is there instead of here.

JENNIE DORR.

Starts a Savings Account, and all sums deposited thereon will earn 3 per cent interest yearly, compounded each January and July 1st.

Keeping your money idle and hidden away is a very bad practice—you are risking thieves or fire—besides, it is earning nothing.

We always encourage small savings and give them the best of attention.

On the West Side.
PRAIRIE STATE BANK
Washington Blvd. & Desplaines St.

On the South Side.
PRAIRIE NATIONAL BANK
159 La Salle St. near Monroe.

THE ENDEAVOR MOVEMENT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS YOUNG.

By Rev. Wm. Chalmers Covert, D. D.

On February second the Society of Christian Endeavor concludes twenty-five years of criticism and progress. Criticism from those who feared the rising up in the church of an organization which in its vigorous life might take the bit and defy authority; and progress by the use of the wisest and most effective means of Christian service. Some men honestly felt that in the birth of the Endeavor Society with its special appeal to young people to pray and speak in public and do practical Christian work, there was a serious peril to the honesty and sincerity and modesty of the young Christian; that we were beginning the cultivation of pious prigs who would learn a kind of glibness in talking of religious experiences without ever having that experience. Some said hard things about the flirting opportunities afforded by the Endeavor meetings and the large appeal to the social life the organization was so constantly making to the young people. They felt that motives in religion were becoming mixed and the church was a party to a scheme for lowering the tone and dignity of religious worship and service. That we should consent to the growth in our well articulated denominational organization of an association of young people that was professedly undenominational was a shock to many friends of young people's work. They were not sure what the end would be—whether there would be a weakening of the loyalty of young members to their church or a strengthening of the bond, remained to be seen. It was an opportunity for wild benefactions and the espousing by the young people of ill judged enterprises wherein our sessions would find themselves embarrassed by unpleasant duties of authority in the interest of unity.

Many perils were honestly forseen. From them the Lord has graciously preserved us to a most remarkable degree. We hear through the twenty-five years of a few belligerents among the young people and a few irascible and tactless pastors clashing with the organization of lambs in his fold but the forebodings of the forboders have not materialized. The young people are with us yet in unbroken loyalty and affection asking the mother church to use them in whatever way she sees fit.

This generation of action has developed among the growing young men hundreds of elders and deacons and tens of thousands of Sunday School workers both men and women. The training of churchmen that has gone on through this quarter of a century has had something to do with the new type of home and foreign missionary that has appeared and perhaps with the very practical evangelistic spirit that now possesses the church. The emphasis on personal work that has gradually made it the issue in a forward movement in the denomination was given a fine impulse if not its birth in the Endeavor movement.

Systematic giving has been taught with such persistency here that our young people are at the best stage of intelligent and hearty generosity that they have ever known. They are the pastor's comfort. This in spite of some painful instances where pastor and young people have been estranged and each drew apart in mutual helplessness. The evening service is made possible as an effective second service by the sympathy and presence of the young people in spite of the fact that there are societies where the couples go home to a selfish fireside when they ought to have kept their pledge and gone to the help of their pastor in the much needed evening service.

Missionary service has had a mighty quickening from the new life and enthusiasm born of the presence among the young people of a missionary committee that has talked of mission fields and missionaries till they have come to be living, vital things in the life of the young people's religion.

Then the very ground of criticism as to the undenominational character of the movement has become its glory in the eyes of those who love the church best. This work among the young people of all branches of Christ's church has brought the growing generation eye to eye before the great duties of saving the race and made the grounds of unity more apparent than the

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grounds of difference. The great going on toward cordial union of Christendom that now cheers the heart of every true follower of Christ has found its great initial impulse within the past twenty-five years. Who will deny to the Endeavor movement a large share of the glory in the work of realizing here and now the prayer of our Lord?

All things considered we thank God and take courage. These have been great years of revealing. The young men and women have seen God and duty; the church has seen God and the young people and duty as they would never have been seen had not this idea of young people at work for Christ and the church been born into the world.

The testing time is on. The days of fruitage are here. Will the ranks of mature workers in the church, the file on foreign and home fields, the teachers and leaders be of those who have come up through the schooling of the Endeavor Society? If so the critic will close his mouth only to open it with the gladdest doxology that the heart knows.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Norman L. Godfrey.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the birthday of Christian endeavor has just been celebrated. On the 2nd of February, 1881, the first socity was organized by Dr. Francis E. Clark, in the Willis-ton church, of Portland Maine, with a charter membership of fifty-seven. The work has had a most marvelous growth since its very beginning. That it is a child of Providence, born at a time when the world was waiting for some such movement, is evidenced by the fact that at the end of the first five years of its existance there were 850 societies with a membership of 30,000. It has no high ecclesiastical authority, is actuated by one great impulse, and is controlled by one prevailing idea—"For Christ and the Church." Perhaps one of its greatest missions is the spirit of interdenominational fellowship it has engendered not only among the different Endeavor societies, but also among the various churches. It has clearly demonstrated how successfully all sects and creeds may work together for the promotion of Christ's kingdom, and that "One is our Master, even Christ and all we are brethren." Of inestimable importance also is the work it has accomplished in training young Christians for intelligent witnessing and working for Christ by directing their enthusiasm and energy into religious channels. It has given them Christian work to do at home, and has prepared them for the larger duties that await them in Christian service. President Roosevelt has recently said of it—"The work of the Christian Endeavor society during the quarter of a century of its existence has been far-reaching in its effect for good. To make beter citizens, to lift up the standard of American manhood and womanhood, is to do the greatest service to the country. The stability of this government depends upon the individual character of its citizenship. No more important work can be done—important to the cause of Christianity as well as to our national life and greatness."

Endeavor societies have found their way into the hospitals, poorhouses, prisons, asylums for deaf and dumb, mining camps, and the lepers' colonies in different parts of the world. The pledge has been translated and printed in more than fifty languages, and is used by one hundred and fifty denominations. There are now 67,213 societies scattered over seventy-seven different countries as follows:

Africa	341	India	582
Austria	9	Italy	9
Australia	3,960	Jamaica	258
Barbadoes	3	Japan	129
Belgium	1	Korea	12
Bermudas	7	Labrador	1
Brazil	62	Laos	29
British Guiana .	11	Lapland	1
Bulgaria	9	Loyalty Islands.	25
Canada	4,278	Madagascar	93
Caloline Islands	13	Madeira Islands.	1
Chile	6	Marshal Islands.	21
China	372	Mauritius	1
Colombia	5	Mexico	133
Costa Rica	10	Newfoundland .	2
Cuba	14	Norway	10
Denmark	1	Palestine	5
Egypt	17	Panama	1
Ellice Islands ..	7	Persia	65
Finland	20	Philippine Islands	6
Fiji Islands	1	Portugal	2
Formosa	1	Porto Rico	5
France	120	Russia	14
Germany	298	Samoa	19
Gibraltar	3	Siam	2
Gilbert Islands .	4	Spain	49
Great Britain ..	10,519	Sweden	220
Grenada, W. Ind.	2	Switzerland	21
Guatemala	3	Syria	17
Haiti	1	Tokelau Islands.	3
Hawaiian Islands	54	Trinidad	14
Holland	1	Turkey	20
Hungary	16	United States ..	45,172
Iceland	1		
World Wide Total			67,213

Christian Endeavor has also a strong hold in the United States navy. Three Endeavorers went down with the Maine. An Endeavor society entered Manila Bay with Dewey's fleet, while another was on the Oregon. There were Endeavorers in the Santiago fight, and Endeavorers also among the Spaniards on the other side.

The Presbyterians head the list of the number of societies, having about 12,000, while the

Congregationalists come second numbering about 6,500 societies. The total membership in all lands aggregates about 4,000,000.

An All-European convention was held in Berlin last year with an attendance of more than 6,000, and it is expected that the World's Christian Endeavor convention to be held at Geneva Switzerland, from July 28 to August 1, of this year will bring together a still greater number from all parts of the world.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of Christian Endeavor has for its goal one mililon dollars for missions, one million new church goers, one million new church members and one million new Christian Endeavor members. If added to this be a conquest for spiritual power, which may be had for the asking, the Christian Endeavor movement will sway the whole wide world for Christ.

CHURCH FEDERATION TENDENCIES.

GEORGE A. CAMPBELL.

The present-day tendencies in the church's thought and life are certainly working for a better understanding among and a more intelligent and thorough co-operation of the Christians of all denominations. The work of the Kingdom is stressed more and more, while that of the denomination is regarded of secondary importance.

We may not be able to clearly trace many of the tendencies that are mightily at work in our generation, indeed we may not even be able to see them; yet nevertheless there are certain very apparent tendencies that are silently yet mightily working for the larger federation of the followers of Him who prayed that they all might be one.

All denominations are emphasizing that God is Love; that man as man is worth saving; that Christ is our authority, teacher, guide and Savior; and that evil must be courageously and unitedly opposed. In these we have tendencies that overleap denominational barriers and permeate the church universal. A good fraternal feeling is the first requisite to closer co-operation. We are now regarding each other as sincere. "God is Love," said John. "I long to prove no waning moons can canker love," sang Tennyson. And our own Whittier writes:

"I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air,
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care."

In our devoted exaltation of Christ, we are coming to possess His conception of both God and man; God as Father and man as brother.

So the church universal is saying, if God is love, let us love; if we are all brothers let us treat each other with consideration and kindness. The first and second commandments are coming to their own.

The story is told of a son, John, who quarrelled with his father. As a result of the quarrel he left home vowing he would never return till his father relented and sent for him. The years came and went. Finally the mother and wife became seriously ill. When it was evident that she would not likely recover she begged her husband to send for John. He finally yielded and wired the boy, "John, come home, mother is very sick." As soon as the train could bring him, John reached the little country station and soon was at the kitchen door of the humble home. He raised the old familiar latch and entered. The father was sitting there; but with some of the old hatred in his heart the boy passed him without speaking to him, and hurriedly passed to the little bed room off the kitchen where the mother anxiously awaited his coming. With their greeting and kiss her spirit took its flight. And the father and son were left alone. The father in his grief arose and went to the son and said: "John, you loved your mother and I loved my wife, for this common love let us forgive and forget here by the bedside of our dearest one." The boy's heart was touched; so the two souls became as one.

So may we not hope that as all Christians gather more completely around the cross of the Savior, the Savior of our common love, that there will come to be a bond of unity among his followers that will be all-conquering and all uniting. This love permeating the whole church with a burning zeal would solve many of the perplexing problems of the church of today. It would prevent the useless and sinful multiplica-

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tion of churches in a given community. It would provide churches in those places not able to support them. It would eliminate denominational competition. It would make the church a united foe to the federated evils of our day. Never were the sinful forces more united. The church, if it meets the demands of the present, must get together in more intelligent and continuous co-operation.

It is said by one who knows Chicago well that the churches here are too busy looking after their individual interests to consider the question of federation. Sad, if true; but if true, there is all the more need of federation. Church federation will yet become a great factor in our Christian life in this city, yes, in every city.

The leveling process of religious, rather Christian, belief; the growing sense of a Christian brotherhood; the development of great organizations in every line; the need of a co-operative church to meet and defeat the great evils of the day; these and other causes will not allow the federation movement to halt long in Chicago. Federation is too vital to be a passing or an impulsive mood.

It is expected that the committee appointed at the meeting at which reports were given of the New York meeting will soon have plans of procedure to report.

CO-OPERATIVE PREACHING.

Why not have co-operation in so important a work as preaching? Co-operation is sought and encouraged in many business enterprises and found to be practical and beneficial. Four Chicago pastors, have entered into a plan for this sort of preaching, the test of its practical efficiency being limited to a series of four sermons upon sociological themes. These pastors meet together for study and the preparation of their sermons, which will be the product of four minds instead of one. While these sermons will be constructed upon lines of thought wrought out in common they will yet bear the stamp of individual treatment. Each pastor is to preach at the same time upon the special theme for that occasion. It remains to be seen what actual results will be secured by this method, but it is certain that the plan is a happy one and exceedingly suggesive of a practical treatment of trying social problems. It is a new field of enterprise which may at least be entered.

Especially does the plan commend itself to the consideration of pastors and suggest original and new methods by which preachers of various denominations, as well as those of any single denomination, may do some helpful experimenting. In any place where there are a number of churches of different faiths the pastors might profitably follow some plan similar to that of the Chicago pastors in their social reform work, or in labors for the moral uplift of the community. In cities where there are two or more churches of the same denomination what a saving of strength and time the observance of some similar co-operative method might prove to the pastors. Doctrinal teachings, special courses of instruction or subjects of general denominational interest might be effectively presented by some exchange as this. If a pastor has spent much time and thought upon the preparation of a special sermon or course of sermons or has a special message of importance to Christians, there can be no reason why he should have his message confined to a single congregation or a single hearing. A more frequent exchange among pastors would not only give congregations variety and new points of view of truth but, what is of even greater importance, would afford the pastor more time for the preparation of better sermons. One great sermon preached to two congregations on Sunday is preferable to two mediocre sermons preached to the same congregations.

With all the demands made upon the pastor he is required to prepare too many sermons. He need not be satisfied in preaching once on the Sabbath, but his congregation should not expect him to produce two great sermons. If a pastor is in his own pulpit each Sunday morning the church could scarcely suffer in its work if at least twice each month the evening sermon should be preached by another pastor in exchange. By this method some of the best results of the pastor's study could be distributed and those who have the stronger preachers for pastors could profitably bear with a sermon which might not in all respects be so strong as those to which they were accustomed. In all events what a saving of physical and intellectual power this would be. Possibly, too, greater spiritual results might be secured.—*The Standard.*

FEBRUARY

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BEULAH HOME AND ITS WORK.

As the year 1905 gives us a parting strain we can say with the poet:

"The kindly year, his liberal hands
Have lavished all his store,"

and in grateful acknowledgement we still look forward with glad hope and unfaltering trust to the New Year just dawning upon us. The year that completes our decade of service in Chicago for the tempted, the tried, the poverty stricken, and the sinful is, in many respects, the most encouraging of all. There has been in the Home an average of about seventy inmates. They have come from many different states of our Union and from foreign lands, some unable to speak or even understand our language when they enter. Only those of experience and close observation can realize how susceptible many of these broken-hearted ones are to religious influences when exerted with the real Christ spirit. Many are deeply repentant when they enter and the oft-repeated assurance that there is full and free forgiveness even for them, that the loving Saviour not only forgives but forgets the sins of the past finds a responsive chord in most hearts. We have so few, if any, hopeless cases. Often those who are least promising surprise us by the change that gradually comes into their lives.

The past year has also been one of large financial blessings. There have been many liberal souls who have kept remembering us. Semi-weekly donations from South Water St. have been a most important auxiliary to the supply of the daily needs.

Mrs. Geo. F. Swift, after visiting the home and having a series of interviews with a number connected with the work, sent in October her check for $5,000. This noble gift enabled Mr. Richards, the Superintendent, to cancel the mortgage on one of the buildings. If some other of our wise generous-hearted men or women whom God has richly blessed with material things, would duplicate this amount the adjoining property which is now occupied and for which a large rental is paid, could be purchased. One of the most hopeful signs is the fact that the humanity of the work is being recognized by men and women in high official positions, as well as by Christians in our churches who are imbued with the real missionary spirit.

The following was recently received by Superintendent Richards:

My dear Sir:

Judge Tuthill who presided for a number of years in the Juvenile Court, has written me a very strong letter recommending the work being done in your institution. I am satisfied from his endorsement, and from the fact that such men as Rev. J. A. Rondthaler, Luther Laflin Mills and Bishop Samuel Fallows are connected with your institution, that it must be a worthy and commendable one, and I hope that it will continue successfully in the good work that it is now doing.

Very truly yours,

Oct. 31, 1905. E. F. DUNNE, Mayor.

Another line of work has been midnight meetings in the slum district. Rev. Ernest A. Bell in an article on "Midnight Evangelism on Custom House Place" gives some alarming and pathetic facts. Some Saturday nights as many as forty workers testify of righteousness, sobriety and judgment to come to the 1,500 misguided men and boys who surge every hour through this street that has spread the city's dishonor over the world. Last summer there came a letter to Rev. J. E. Ensign, from Denver, as follows:

"Some time ago I had occasion to hear you preach on vice and the social evil on Custom House Place. Oh! Mr. Ensign, I want to make myself right with God. My poor efforts seem in vain. Won't you pray for me? I know you are a righteous man because you drove home the truth to me that night. May God give you the power to continue that blessed work. I will not sign this letter because I feel ashamed of myself, that I am such a degenerate, and for the sake of my mother who places a world of confidence in her only son.

"One who needs God's Help."

Christian friends, brothers and sisters, will you not preach and pray and give more than ever for the evangelization of our great city. Chief Collins will notify the tenants of the resorts that they must vacate in the near future. The business interests of Chicago demand it. Our

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blessed Master says: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

"My people perish for lack of knowledge."

A far higher, nobler motive than the business interests of Chicago demands unceasing vigilance, renewed consecration and a fresh baptism of divine sympathy and love.

Chicago, Ill. N. S. B.

THE COOK COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Eight union classes are being conducted for the training of teachers. They are as follows:

Monday evening—Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church, 70th St and Yale Ave.

Monday evening—Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1025 North Halsted St., corner of Belden Ave.

Monday evening—Pilgrim Temple Baptist Church, corner North Avenue and Leavitt St.

Tuesday evening—Armour Mission, 33rd St., and Armour Ave.

Wednesday noon, 12 to 1 o'clock, for men only—Central Y. M. C. A., 153 La Salle St.

Thursday evening—South Chicago Congregational Church, 9135 Ontario Ave.

Thursday evening—Berwyn Baptist Church, 34th and Harold Ave.

Friday evening—Third Presbyterian Church, Ashland and Ogden Aves.

Evening classes begin at 7:45. There is no expense except for the text-book and all Sunday School teachers are urged to avail themselves of this opportunity for improvement. At every meeting the Sunday School lesson for the following Sunday is taught, as well as the teacher-training lesson which consists of an outline study of either the Old or New Testament, a study of the Principles of Teaching or of Sunday School management. The Teacher Training Faculty consists of Rev. Henry F. Cope, one of the editors of the *Sunday School Times*, Prof. J. J. Rapp of the Garrett Biblical Institute, Mr. Herbert W. Gates, Religious Work Director of the Central Y. M. C. A., and Miss Content Patterson, assistant to the pastor of the 3rd Presbyterian Church.

The Friday noon meeting in Willard Hall for the exposition of the lesson for the following Sunday and led by Rev. William Evarts has been crowded for several weeks.

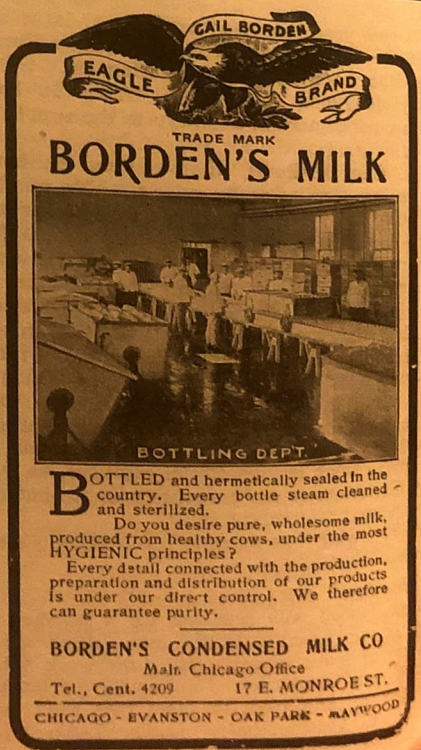
An encouraging conference on the Home Department was held by the directors on the evening of January 23rd, and new effort will be made to extend that work in the county.

Bishop Vincent has agreed to be present at our annual convention in April. At that time we hope to have the best exhibit of work actually being done in our schools that we have yet made. Isn't your school doing some progressive work the display of which will help the rest of us?

I. B. BURGESS,
Member Executive Com. Cook Co. S. S. Ass'n.

FOLLOW YOUR LEADER.

Christian life is simple. It is summed up in one thing—"Follow me." Day before yesterday, as I got out of the elevated train at Hanover Square, I looked down upon the street far below, and a thought something like this went through my mind: Supposing that, without any knowledge of the existence and mode of working of an elevated railway, I had been placed on this train while asleep or unconscious, and had awakened at this station, and been told that I must get down to that street. I get out of the train and find myself on a narrow platform. I look down on either side, and say, "No way down there except by being dashed to pieces." Instinctively I follow those in front of me. Steps, but the door is shut; no getting down there. I follow still. A door, but it opens into an enclosure. I follow still. Another door, and there are steps which lead me safely and easily down to the street. I might have stood still and distracted myself with a dozen devices for getting down. I might have gone bustling about looking for a rope or a ladder. There was only one thing needful, and that was to follow those who knew the way. So in our Christian experience one thing is needful—to hear Jesus's words and follow him.—*Marvin R. Vincent.*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NEW COURSES OF UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

New courses of lectures are now beginning in the centers of the University Lecture Association located in the different sections of Chicago. These courses will without exception be of interest to the readers of this notice.

In the West Side center, Lewis Institute, corner Robey and Madison Streets, Professor Herbert L. Willett will give on consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning February 15, a series of six lectures on "The Master Writers of the Bible." The topics taken up are in the following order:

February 15—Isaiah, the Prophet-Statesman.

February 22—Jeremiah, the Prophet-Martyr.

March 1—The Author of Job, Poet and Philosopher.

March 8—Luke, the Beloved Physician.

March 15—Paul, the Defender of the Faith.

March 22—The Author of Hebrews, the first Christian Apologist.

It is the purpose of this course to consider some of the most eminent literary workers among the Hebrew people as they are reflected in the works which they have produced. The series of books chosen for study includes some of the most interesting portions of the Bible. Most of the men included in this series are well-known biblical characters. Two alone are unknown, save through their work. In all cases, however, the man and his work need to be studied together, and the course offers the opportunity for an analysis of the books in the light of their origin and the personality of their authors.

In the North Side center, Lincoln Park Congregational Church, 707 Fullerton Boulevard, Professor Richard G. Moulton will deliver a series of six lectures on "Literary Reading as a Means of Biblical Study,"on consecutive Monday evenings, beginning February 19. Professor Moulton has perhaps done more than any other man to arouse a general interest in the literature of the Bible. It is the pupose of such courses as this to lead through literary study to knowledge and appreciation of the teachings of the Bible. The topics taken up in the series above referred to are:

February 19—The Literary Study of the Bible as Distinct from Theology and Criticism.

February 26—The Book of Job; or, The Mystery of Suffering.

March 5—Deuteronomy; or, The Farewell of Moses to Israel.

March 12—Ecclesiastes; or, the Question, Is Life Worth Living?

March 19—Zion Redeemed; or, The Unity of All History.

March 26—The Revelation; or, The Meeting Ground of Old and New Testament.

In the South Side center, Abraham Lincoln center, corner Oakwood Boulevard and Langley Avenue, on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning February 20, Professor Jerome H. Raymond will deliver his second series of six lectures on "European Capitals and Their Social Significance." This is the continuation of the course given in the same center last year by Professor Raymond on the same general subject, the two constituting a comprehensive survey of the social and political conditions in Europe. The subjects considered in the next series are:

February 20—Athens: The Revival of Hellenism.

February 27—Rome: The Passing of Authority.

March 6—Copenhagen: The Progress of the North.

March 13—Berne: The Triumph of Democracy.

March 20—Madrid: The Evolution of Freedom.

March 27: Brussels: The Conflict with Clericalism.

Each of the lectures of this series is illustrated with a fine collection of colored stereopticon views prepared under Professor Raymond's direction.

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THE AUTHORITY OF EXPERIENCE.

EDWARD SCRIBNER AMES.

To the question: What is the final authority in religion? the Catholic answers, the Church; the Protestant, the Bible, or Christ; the liberal theologian: Reason. The suggestion is here offered that all these may be comprehended under the term experience.

A striking illustration of the authority of experience is found in natural science. Science prescribes certain food, or climate for our physical health, and we accept its authority. If railroads or buildings are to be builded, soil to be made productive, or education to be made most effective, scientific experts in these various fields, are apealed to for direction. Science gets this authority, not from any inspired books, nor from unique men or peculiarly established institutions, but from its experiments and observation. This authority exists in spite of constant changes and conflicting schools of thought. No claim is laid to any absolute or final statements of truth. Everything is held tentatively and with a willingness to make new investigations and to modify any conclusions.

Religion is in reality similarly dependent upon experience. The church, the Bible and reason grew up gradually through the actual experiences of races and individuals. They have authority in so far as they lead to helpful and practical control and furtherance of human life. The degree of their authority is measured by the strength of the appeal which they make to us, and by their fruits. The final test of the various expressions of religion is experience in some form. When the church has become inadequate to the social demands, its form and teaching are reconstructed. This happened most notably in the Reformation and has recurred in the organization of each Protestant denomination. The Bible is employed under the same principle. Certain portions of it make no appeal to the modern mind, while other passages have increasing value. Anyone's Bible is really that part of the scriptures which he uses and from which he gains spiritual enlightment and guidance. Reason has come to its developed form in constant dependence upon practical human interests. The intellect is at last the servant of the will and the tests of truth are determined with reference to practical values in human experience.

It was just this appeal to experience which gave authority to the teachings of Jesus. The Rabbis of his day quoted books. Jesus appealed to the laws of daily experience, such as the growth of fruits and building of houses. He claimed no authority which could not be proved valid in the living experience and observation of all men. That is what gave his teaching such wonderful power and astonished those who heard him.

CHICAGO Y. P. C. T. U.

The following officers were elected for the year 1906, at the executive meeting held January 4th, at the offices in The Temple:

President—Eva Marshall Shontz.
Cor. Secretary—Mattie Guild Squires.
Treasurer—Mr. Doubt.

Vice Presidents—
North Side—Mr. Larson.
South Side—Grace E. Levin.
West Side—Walter J. Miller.
Evangelistic Supt.—Alice Peters.
Literature Supt.—Anna Elfers.
Press Supt.—Fred D. L. Squires.
Franchise Supt.—Rosalie E. Bevin.
Delegate Supt.—
Law Enforcement—E. A. Moore.
Christian Citizenship—Mr. Nance.
Petition Supt.—Mrs. Doubt.
Membership Supt.—Mr. Ludlow.
Visiting Committee—
Reception—Ada Brown.
Chorus Supa.—Mr. Perkins.

Mass Meetings—
North Side—Mr. Plumley.
South Side—Rep. from 3rd U. P. Church.
West Side—T. Mauritzen.
Finance Committee—Mr. Doubt, Adah Jenks, Mr. Tegtmeyer, Mary Clark, Martha Kirk.

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The mellow and beautiful characters are those which have felt the discipline of sorrow and pain. Sorrow and pain are not to be sought either for their own sakes or for what they will bring, but when they come it is a good and quieting thing to remember that they will leave a treasure behind them. It is not comfortable for a boy to be homesick when he leaves his home for school or business, but his homesickness is part of the schooling through which he everything—the inner principle and the outer passes into his manhood and superior strength.—

He that hath so many causes of joy, and so great, is very much in love with sorrow and peevishness, who loses all these pleasures, and chooses to sit down upon his little handful of thorns. Enjoy the blesings of this day, if God sends them; and the evils of it bear patiently and sweetly; for this day is only ours, we are dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow. But if we look abroad, and bring into one day's thoughts the evil of many, certain and uncertain, what will be and what will never be, our load will be as intolerable as it is unreasonable.—*Jeremy Taylor.*

Christianity is so many things that it is easy for people to differ in defining it each one perceiving and emphasizing one part of the truth. But we can safely accept any one of Jesus' definitions, knowing well that, though there are many of them, and though they bring out different aspects of the one rich truth, each one, rightly understood, will give us the whole. "I am come," he said, "that ye might have life, and that ye might have it abundantly." That covers expression. The fruits of kindness and love and purity are not tied on to the life like borrowed or artificial fruits on a tree, but unfold from the life within. This life is not a pinched and anemic life, but full and rich and strong, adequately nourishing the whole body. It is not a narrow and constricted life. It flows out in all the ways a life should, and related in all right ways to its surroundings it is not distorted or perverted. It understands itself and its end and its sources and its duties and its relationships. Christianity is a right conduct and a right doctrine only when and because it is an abundant life.—*S. S. Times.*

Take care that the divinity within you has a creditable charge to preside over.—Marcus Aurelius.

The first condition of human goodness is something to love; the second, something to reverence.—George Eliot.

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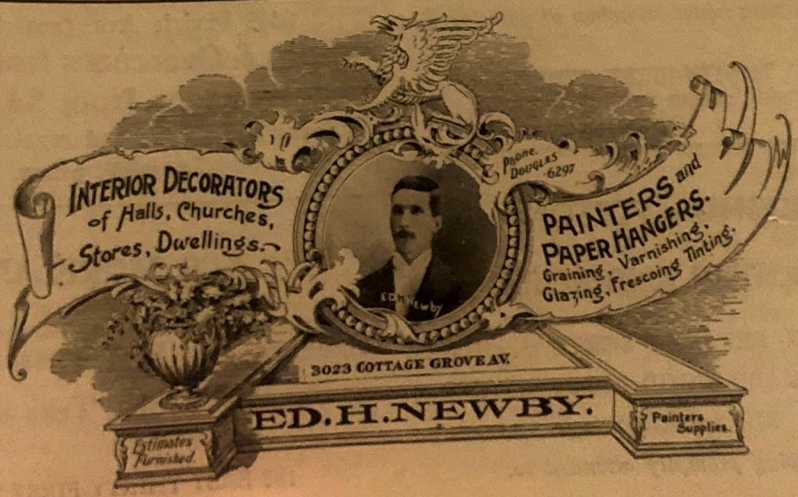

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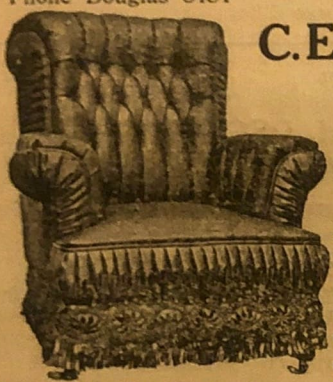

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